STARS STRIPES.

Racing Stripes: Could Stewart be a few big wins from retirement?

Volume 63, No. 313

@ SS 2005



Pair of servicemembers help save man from burning van in Tokvo



"Their stories don't make the front pages"

America's second army

Civilian contractors take on roles formerly held by military personnel but lack the same level of recognition

Kids get earthquake education Page 3

Far East hoops: Kubasaki boys, Osan girls win

Page 36





STARS STRIPES

COMING SOON



Scene on Sunday Get blitzed, get burned by shamers



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ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Utah school threat: A student charged with plotting to bomb an eastern Utah high school last vear entered a plea to a misdemeanor

count of making a terroristic threat. Prosecutors say Steven A. Kunzler, 18, and three other students plotted to kill classmates, teachers and administrators by placing a bomb in the commons area of Uintah High School in Vernal.

Bird flu vaccine: The federal government is getting ready to test a bird flu vaccine and stockpiling both vaccine and antiviral drugs as the threat grows that a deadly strain of avian influenza will begin spreading from

Two million doses of vaccine are being stored in bulk form for possible emergency use and to test whether it maintains its potency, officials said Wednesday.

Military

Army helicopter crash in Texas: An Army helicopter crash that killed seven soldiers in November in Texas was caused by the pilots' attempt to fly under visual flight rules in poor weather conditions, an investigation

Maj. Gen. James D. Thurman, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division, said administrative disciplinary action has been taken against the company and battalion commander and two members of the chain of command. The company commander has been removed.

All seven soldiers aboard died Nov. 29 when their Black Hawk apparently hit cables supporting a TV transmission tower about 20 minutes into the two-hour flight to the Red River Army Depot near Texarkana,

World

Afghan plane crash: The first bodies retrieved from a crashed Afghan airliner were returned to their grieving relatives on Thursday, three weeks after the plane smashed into a mountain during a snowstorm. An official said the bodies of an American and a Russian have been identi-

Bad weather has slowed recovery efforts on the freezing peak near the Afghan capital where the plane hit Feb. 3, killing all 108

Yuschenko poisoning: Prosecutors in



Clinton tour of Asia: Former President Bill Clinton signs his autobiography for South Korean Clinton to the orange of the publication of his autobiography "My Life" in Seoul. At a dinner hosted by the publisher of the Korean edition of the best-selling memoir, Clinton expressed optimism Thursday that an international standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons programs can be resolved peacefully. "I hope that China and all friends of the Korean people will make it succeed," he said, according to a pool report,

Ukraine are following a new lead that might shed more light on the dioxin poisoning of Ukraine President Viktor Yushchenko, an official said Wednesday.

Prosecutor General Svyatoslav Piskun has acquired audiotapes of what appeared to be a conversation between Russian secret service officials discussing the alleged role of Moscow political analyst Gleb Pavlovsky in Yushchenko's poisoning, said Piskun's spokesman, Vyacheslav Astapov.

Afghan border clashes: Gunbattles near Afghanistan's insurgent-haunted border with Pakistan left six suspected Taliban militants dead and five government soldiers wounded, Afghan police said.

Khost lies in a swath of Afghan territory along the Pakistani horder where militants regularly mount ambushes and bombings.

Palestinian government reform: The Palestinian parliament on Thursday approved a 24-member Cabinet dominated by professional appointees, including nearly half with doctoral degrees, in a major move toward

long-promised government reform.

The 54-12 vote, with four abstentions, ended days of wrangling between rebellious legislators and Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, who initially sought to reappoint political cronies of the late Yasser

Japanese truck lawsuit: A Japanese trucking company agreed Tuesday to pay \$19,000 to the family of a woman killed in an accident involving one of its fleet, the family's lawver said.

The truck operator, Kamei Juki, will pay the money to the mother of Shiho Okamoto, a 29-year-old housewife killed in January 2002 when a wheel of the Mitsubishi truck flew off and struck her in Yokohama, near Tokyo, said lawyer Hideyuki Kobayashi.

The Mitsubishi Motors vehicle was found to have a design flaw, forcing the manufacturer to announce massive recalls.

Sri Lankan rebels: Tamil Tiger rebels fired on two government soldiers near a boundary for the guerrillas' territory, killing one and seriously wounding another in an incident imperiling Sri Lanka's fragile cease-fire, the military and rebels said

The Tigers, reporting the incident to cease-fire monitors, said soldiers had approached and aimed at rebels before Wednesday's shooting on the northern Jaffna Peninsula. The military said the troops were within their designated area and that the rebels violated the truce by shooting.

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Setting aside fears to save a life | Class helps to find the

Two U.S. servicemembers pull Japanese man from burning wreck | 'one,' avoid

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO - Two servicemembers assigned to Stars and Stripes in Tokyo helped rescue a Japanese man from a burning van Thursday afternoon, according to evewitness reports

Lt. Col. Dan Todd, commander. and Master Sgt. Isaac Morrow. first sergeant, were traveling on the Chuo highway when they spotted a van smashed against the median on the opposite side of the road. After vaulting the divider they joined a Japanese man in trying to free the driver from the wreck.

Todd said the driver was convulsing and appeared to be in some sort of seizure in the locked vehicle. The accelerator was slammed to the floor and with the engine screaming, the spinning tires threw debris all over the highway, Todd said.

Todd and Morrow couldn't smash out the windows with a rub. ber mallet the other Jananese man provided. But a truck driver also stopped to help.

"I saw two Americans dashing



Two servicemembers assigned to Stars and Stripes in Tokyo helped rescue a Japanese man from this burning van Thursday afternoon.

toward a wrecked van, jumping over the median," said Jun Shige zumi, who lives in Tokyo, "I followed them with a crowbar that I happened to have in my car after I saw them trying hard to open the window.

Trying not to further injure the driver, Todd smashed out the passenger side rear window and both he and Morrow tried to reach the door lock switch.

Morrow said during the commotion, the driver stopped convuls-ing and stared at them through

the window, apparently in shock.
One of the Japanese men smashed out the front seat passenger window. Todd, seeing flames crawling from under the hood into the van's cab, climbed through the window and unfastened the driver's seatbelt. With Morrow's help, they got him out and away from the car.

"I thought he was going to burn to death," Todd said. "I knew we had to act quick.

Morrow also attempted to keep the traffic as far from the wreck possible on the narrow two-lane highway.

"I was afraid it was going to blow up and I wanted to minimize casualties," Morrow said.

As they walked the driver down the highway, the van exploded, sending flames and black clouds of smoke billowing into the air.

"Pieces and parts were flying everywhere," Todd said. Shigezumi said he was impressed

"Merely standing near a burning car is scary enough but the American entered the burning car to save a life," he said via a phone interview late Thursday af-

Toshio Ishiki, a Tokyo Metropolitan Police Expressway Patrol Division spokesman, confirmed the accident occurred at about 1:35 p.m. He said the 46-year-old driver was changing lanes when he was struck from behind by another vehicle. Ishiki said the driver was taken to a nearby hospital but officials there declined to comment on the driver's condi-

tion early Thursday evening. Todd, who flew as a KC-135 navigator for 10 years, said he had practiced plenty of emergency response scenarios but always wondered how he would perform in a real situation.

"There was no doubt in my mind." Todd said. "I had to take care of the situation right away .. had to put away the fear. Chivomi Sumida contributed to this

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the 'jerk'

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN Stars and Strings

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan -Love is blind, so the saying goes, but it doesn't have to be

Starting next week, the Family Support Center here is offering a five-series class, "How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk," for single adults and parents of teenagers who may need advice in the dat-

ing game.
Though experts say there are warning signs that a potential partner actually may be a jerk, FSC's Mary Lassalle-Adams said the goal of the class isn't to stop people from getting married

"It's getting more in tune with your partner so you can have a stronger relationship," said Lassalle-Adams, a community source technician who will be leading the class. "It's just another tool that folks can take with them to help them make better decisions

The class materials come from Jon Van Epp, a marriage and family counselor in Ohio. His premarital relationship program about avoiding jerks at the altar is taught by church youth groups, schools and singles ministries in the United States, according to Epp's Web site, www.nojerks.com. The program also has reached seven countries and more than 250 military bases, which tend to have large singles populations.

Lassalle-Adams said the class will cover five areas people should explore before marriage: Family background, quality of the person's conscience, compatibility, relationship skills and patterns of past relationships.

Among other questions are those touching on finances, spirituality, expressing affection, trust and handling emotions.

"A lot of young folks jump into marriage," she said. "This is a way to explore some things, think about the relationship you're in, before getting married. You don't want to go into the unknown and learn everything (about

spouse) after you're married."
The first class meets from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday at the Family Support Center; four more classes are to be held once a week at the same time and place. Sign up by Monday at FSC or call DSN

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svanj@pstripes.osd.mil

Arnn students learn about earthquake safety

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

SAGAMIHARA HOUSING AREA, Japan - "Children, what's the first thing you do in an earthquake? Hide under the table," Gunner Newman, U.S. Army Garrison Japan community relations chief, told the five

Moments later, the little room atop a truck began to rattle and shake, simulating an earthquake.

Giggles and laughter followed the children as they dashed under the table. The earthquake truck was brought by Sag-

amihara City firefighters to John O. Arnn Elementary School, as part of an earthquake awareness day Wednesday. "Because we're in such an earth-

quake-prone area we always want to be presaid assistant principal Carla Jackson. "We hope it will be familiar from now

Pupils in each grade level experienced the earthquake truck, which simulates some of Japan's famous earthquakes. Firefighters also helped the children spray a target with a fire hose. American Red Cross representatives gave out coloring books on earthquake and fire safety Newman organized the event on the recom-

mendation of U.S. Army Garrison Japan leaders, who realized the necessity of such training after the massive earthquake last year in Niigata Prefecture, Newman said, "That really struck close to home," he said.

He learned about Sagamihara's earthquake truck after attending a city earthquake preparedness event last year. The city loaned the truck to the base along with a smoke house, which models a house fire. Children crawled through the small smoky tent to practice covering their mouths and staying low in a fire "It's foggy, I don't like this smoke," one

youngster protested.



Schoolchildren at John O. Arnn Elementary School in Sagamihara Housing Area, Japan, get an opportunity to experience an earthquake machine at the school Wednesday.

Newman said the Army plans to replicate the program at other posts The real-life experience helps the message

"The students get to actually practice what they read and what they hear," he said.

Second-grader Elaine Stewart said the earthquake truck was a little scary. But now she knows exactly what to do when the ground starts to shake:

"I would get under the table and I would stay there until it wasn't moving anymore.

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@pstripes.osd.mil

Wrestling at Yokota YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan

 Tickets for the International Championship Wrestling shows at the Taiyo Community Center will be available at the door Saturday and Sunday, according to the 374th Services Marketing

Department.
Saturday's 7 p.m. show is for adults only, Sunday's 2:30 p.m. show is open to all ages.
Tickets are \$3 and include hamburger or hot dog, chips

and a soda

U.S. civilians working in Iraq are making big sacrifices, but most people don't know it

The sting of being overlooked

By KIRSTEN SCHARNBERG Chicago Tribune

ASTORIA, Ore. - Having no idea of the significance of his de-livery, the FedEx driver hurriedsed five massive boxes containing everything Anthony Stramiello had possessed in Iraq onto his widow's front porch.

Roberta Stramiello was jolted from the living room sofa by the

"I'd better go see what's going on out there," she said apprehen-sively. The last time strangers had been milling about her front porch — on the evening of Dec. — they had been there to tell

her that her husband was dead.

It is perhaps revealing that the personal effects of Anthony Stramiello, a 61-year-old construction contractor who had been working in the Iraqi city of Mosul at the time of his death, were returned to the United States with so little ceremony on a recent February

morning.

In the nearly two years since the war began in Iraq, at least 232 civilians working on U.S. military. and reconstruction contracts have been killed there, many in violent but largely overlooked slayings, according to a report issued to Congress several weeks ago.

Because of difficulties in ac counting for this virtual army of private contractors in Iraq — many of whom are working in supply, logistics and even combat roles integral to the military's mission — the death toll actually could be far higher.

"The number of civilian contractors who have been killed in Iraq is far greater than any other group over there other than the U.S. military itself," said Peter Singer, an expert on national security and Iraq military contracts at the Brookings Institution.

Below the radar

Yet aside from brief moments of attention after high-profile kidnappings, beheadings or bloody ambushes caught on videotape, the public's focus rarely has been on these at-risk civilian workers.

Few Americans seem aware these contractors are dying at a rate never before seen in American military history, and the bulk of the public's support and sympathy remains directed toward the families of the more than 1,400 military personnel killed on duty in Iraq



"[Contractors] don't come home to funerals with full military honors or flag-draped coffins or bugles playing taps. Their families don't get letters from the president "Stramiello said "Louess I didn't feel that way personally for me, my husband is gone either way — but I can understand how others might feel the sting of

The best method the U.S. Department of Labor has for tracking the number of contractors killed in Iraq is to monitor how many insurance claims are made under the Defense Base Act a law that requires employees who work on national or international government contracts to be provided insurance, including compensation benefits in the event of their deaths. But some families may not know they are entitled to



Civilian contractors install a gunner's shield atop a Humvee from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit at an armor installation facility in Kuwait last July.

such benefits and never officially report their family member's

Adding to the difficulty of monitoring how many contractors die organization keeping an official tally of the number of civilians working there. Such an accounting would be difficult because the workers come from dozens of different countries despite the fact they all are employed by com nies that have been awarded U.S. military and reconstruction con-

In from the Cold War

Iraq's battlefield actually was shaped most pivotally by events of the previous century. After the end of the Cold War, militaries around the world began to downsize. But at the same time, the world began to change — and destabilize in some places

Whole regions of the world were becoming so volatile that their governments were looking to hire professionals to protect them from violent separatists Globalization was bringing Western companies into these same unsettled parts of the world, and they, too, needed security consult-ants and protection. And Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism

seem aware these

contractors are

duina at a rate

never before seen

in American

military history.

were increasing to the degree that some peacekeepers and humanitarian groups soon found Few Americans themselves

need of private guards. What developed to fill all needs is what Singer has dubbed military tized

"PMFs are business providers of professional serintricately vices

firms

linked to warfare in other words, the corporate evolution of the age-old practice of mercenar-Singer, who is considered ies," the nation's foremost expert on the topic, writes in an upcoming issue of Foreign Affairs maga-

In 2002, as it became clear the country was headed toward war, a number of factors all but guar anteed that an unprecedented number of civilian workers would be required to pull it off, Singer

The war would be more politically palatable if fewer troops were deemed necessary to deploy, he argued. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki, in fact, was pressed into retirement from his job after he predicted that an invasion of Iraq would require "several hundred thousand" troops, not the less than 150,000 United States eventually

Into the breach

When the war began in March 2003, civilian contractors filled any gap between bodies deployed and bodies needed. But outsourcing this work to private workers did not come cheaply - or without risk.

Where once a low-paid private first class might be assigned to serve food in the mess ball, now civilian contractors could demand high wages to take those jobs. Where soldiers could be court-martialed for refusing to carry out an order, civilian contractors could refuse to take missions — delivering fuel or ammunition, for example - if they be-

lieved they were too dangerous.
"I think there is a significant question as to whether very heavy use of civil-

ian contractors is cost-effective," said Scott Silli-man, the executive director of the Center on Law. Ethics and National Security

at Duke Universi-"In addition to that, there is the loss of control. But it does accom-

plish the objective of allowing the personnel in uniform to be assigned to the combat-specific, trigger-pull roles in-stead of using them for logistics and support.

Silliman, a former Air Force judge advocate who supervised deployment of all Air Force attorneys to the 1991 Gulf War, worries even more about the legal issues that may result from the presence of civilian contractors in Iraq.

"There are two important things to consider," he said. "The vulnerability of these civilians and the accountability of these ci-vilians. If they are hurt or killed there, what legal protections are afforded them? If they commit

crimes, can they be prosecuted?"

Back at the Victorian mansion she and her husband had been painstakingly rehabbing before he went to Iraq, Roberta Stramiello spends little time in the rooms the couple already had finished wandering through the ones that remain torn apart. She constantly points out what still needs to be done.

"I've done everything I can in this room," she says sadly, "the rest of the work I need Tony to After the FedEx driver left on

that recent morning, Roberta Stramiello made her way outside to begin the painful process of un-packing her dead husband's things. The five black trunks waited on the front porch Anthony Stramiello had built



Kevin DaVee. Engineer and Construction Division, chips away at the crusted earth while examining oil spill contamination in Iraq's southern Rumaila oil fields. A Corps of Engineers contractor with ERST/O'Brien stands by ready to assist.



can show our thanks. Mai. Mohammed Ali Abdul al-Mutalib Iran's 203rd Battalion

44 These people come 10,000 miles to help my country. They've left their families. their children. When we get hurt, they help treat us and take (us) to hospitals. If we can give them something back, just a little, we

Humvee tragedy forges brotherhood of soldiers

Americans gain new respect for Iraqi counterparts

BY STEVE FAINARU The Washington Post

BALAD, Iraq - When the Iraqi troops arrived that morning, three the bottom of the Isaki Canal.

The body of a fourth, Sgt. Rene Knox Jr., 22, had been recovered from a submerged Humvee. Patrolwithout headlights around 4:30 a.m., Knox had overshot a turn. His vehicle tumbled down a concrete embankment and settled upside down in the frigid water

During the harrowing day-long mission to recover the bodies of the Humvee's three occupants on Feb. 13. an Air Force firefighter also drowned. Five U.S. soldiers were treated for hypothermia. For five hours, three Navy SEAL divers searched the canal before their tanks ran out of oxygen.

What happened then, however, has transformed the relationship between the Iraqi soldiers and the skeptical Americans who train

Using a tool they welded themselves that day at a cost of about \$40, the Iraqis dredged the canal through the cold afternoon until the tan boot of Spec. Dakotah Gooding, 21, of Des Moines, ap-peared at the surface. The Iraqis then jumped into the water to pull him out, and went back again and again until they had recovered the

last American. Then they stood atop the canal, shivering in the dark.

"When I saw those Iragis in the "When I saw those maps in un-water, fighting to save their Ameri-can brothers, I saw a glimpse of the future of this country," said Col. Mark McKnight, commander of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, which had overall responsibility for the unit in the accident, his eyes tearing

Pfc. Russell Nahvi, 23, of Arlington, Texas, a medic whose platoon was involved in the accident, said he arrived in Iraq this month with preconceptions about the Iraqi forces. The actions of the Iraqis that Sunday "changed my mind for how I felt about these guys," he said. "I have a totally different perspective now. They were just so into it. They were crying for us. They were saying we were their brothers, too.

The tragedy on Feb. 13 began when 11 soldiers from the 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment. set out from Camp Paliwoda, 50 miles north of Baghdad. Their four Humvees headed toward Balad's western outskirts, from where the Americans believed insurgents had fired rockets at the



A Navy SEAL searches in vain for the bodies of three American service en at Isaki Canal in Balad. Irag.

base. The convoy stopped at an intersection along a dirt road with a canal on the other side. When the vehicles turned back, the second Humvee was missing.

The Humvee was upside down in the middle of the 50-foot-wide canal. None of the three soldiers appeared to be alive. But the pla-toon raced to get them out of the

Two Black Hawk helicopters arrived. They carried Air Force fire-fighters from the 732nd Expedionary Civil Engineer Squadron, dispatched from nearby Logistical Support Area Anaconda. (Air Force officers declined to discuss details of the incident because of a pending investigation.) Within moments, the airmen were also strug gling for their lives, the soldiers said. Neither airman could get out of the canal; one clutched desper ately at the embankment but couldn't get hold, the soldiers said. He slowly began to float away.

The Americans had not called the Iraqis for assistance. About 7 a.m., Sgt. Maj. Maitham Hadi Naouma of the Iraqi army's 203rd Battalion woke up to see U.S. Apache attack helicopters circling the western edge of Balad. He radi oed the battalion commander, Col.

At that point, the Iraqi soldiers

showed up

Shujaa Jawad Hussein, and another officer, Maj. Mohammed Ali Abdul al-Mutalib.

The commanders gathered every soldier they could find and headed to the canal Asked why he felt so strongly about helping the Americans, Abdul al-Mutalib said through an interpreter: "These people come 10,000 miles to help my country. They've left their fami-lies, their children. When we get hurt, they help treat us and take (us) to hospitals. If we can give them something back, just a little, we can show our thanks.

While the SEALs combed the canal, the Iraqis went to a Balad auto repair shop and built their own piece of dredging equipment. The tool they created looked like a 20-foot length of rusted bed frame, with 11 curved pieces of rebar hastily welded to it.

The Iraqis returned to the canal in the early afternoon and began working both sides of the canal in 10-man teams. They lowered the tool into the water with ropes, dredged, then dredged some more.

A U.S. military truck pulled up with food for the rescuers. The Iraqis hadn't eaten all day. The U.S. soldiers lined up at the truck, heaping their plates with food. Instead of feeding themselves, they fanned out, distributing the plates







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2 GIs among dozens killed in Iraq bombings

BY SAMEER N. YACOUBD

BAGHDAD — A man wearing a police uniform drove a car bomb into police headquarters in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit in the largest of a series of attacks on Thursday in Iraq that left a total of 30 people dead, including two U.S. soldiers.

citioning (NO U.S. sources).

The violence cameres Aya fleximater and the control of the control

At least five other Iraqi police were killed in separate attacks across the insurgent-wracked country, including another suicide car bomb assault on a police convoy in Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of the capital.

Two roadside bombs in Qaim, near the Syrian border, also killed four Iraqi National Guardsmen, Iraqi Lt. Col. Abid Ajab Al-Salmani said.

In the capital, gunmen opened fire on a bakery, killing two people and wounding a third, police said. Several blasts echoed through the city at midday, but their cause was not immediately known.

The blast in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, occurred at one of the station's busiest times, when dozens of policemen were arriving to relieve colleagues



Iraqi policemen console each other after a car bomb was detonated at a police station in Tikrit, killing 15 and injuring more than two dozen.

who'd been working all night, police Col. Saad Daham said. The attack killed 15 police and wounded

nearly two dozen others.

"He waited until the shift change, then he exploded the car," Daham said of the attacker, adding the aim was "to kill as many as possible."

Daham said the bomber was able to slip into the station undetected because he was wearing a

police lieutenant's uniform.

Several ambulances raced to the blast site, ferrying casualties to a local hospital. U.S. troops sealed off the area and set up checkbooints and searched vehi-

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Dec

As of Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2005, at least 1,484 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,126 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Wednesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Stovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,346 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,017 deaths resulting

from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

A soldier died Wednesday when an explosive detonated

near Tuz, Iraq, north of Baghdad.

A Marine died Tuesday in a vehicle accident in Anbar prov-

ince, Iraq.
The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Trevor D. Aston, 32, Austin, Texas; died Tuesday after a vehicle accident in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to Marine Forces Reserves 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Divi-

sion, Austin, Texas.
Killed Monday when an explosive detonated near their convoy in Baghdad; assigned to the Minnesota National Guard, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery,

Montevideo, Minn.:

Army 1st Lt. Jason Timmer-

man, 24, Tracy, Minn.
■ Army Staff Sgt. David Day,

25, St. Louis Park, Minn.

Army Sgt. Jesse Lhotka, 24,

■ Army Sgt. Jesse Lhotka, 24, Alexandria, Minn.

cles across the city.

Elsewhere, insurgents ambushed a police patrol in the northern city of Kirkuk with a roadside bomb, killing two policemen and injuring three.

In Iskandariyah, a suicide bomber blew himself up in front of an office that serves as the local headquarters of the Shiite Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, killing five, including three police officers and a child, the government said.

Police initially said the attack targeted the town's police chief, Col. Salman Ali, who escaped unharmed

Army revising procedures, policies at detention centers

BY JOSH WHITE

The Washington Post
WASHINGTON — The Army

has initiated extensive changes in the way it trains for and conducts its worldwide detention operations, acknowledging that a series of investigations into rew

tention operations, acknowledging that a series of investigations into prisoner abuses in Iraq, Afghanistan and Cuba revealed failures, omissions or confusion in Army doctrine and training that might have contributed to the abuses

Maj. Gen. Donald Ryder, the Army's provost marshal gen-

eral and head of the Army's criminal investigation command, said Wednesday that the wide-ranging abuse investigations launched after the Abu Ghraib prison scandal prompted the Army to rework its detention operations, specifically in training soldiers about their roles in prisons and rewriting doctrine to clarify what they are permitted to do in their jobs. Some of the investigations released over the past year pointed

The Army has

reworked

training
operations,
and is

to confusion between military police and military inteligence soldiers and a lack of clark and a lowable interrogations.
Ryder's description Wednesday

rewriting

doctrine to

clarify what

is permitted.

tion techniques.
Ryder's description Wednesday
of an overhaul in
training and doctrine contrasted
with early Army
investigations,
which ruled out
doctrinal or systemic problems as

the root causes of the abuse.

The Army's inspector general, who issued his report on the abuses to Congress in July, called the abuses at Abu Ghraib "aberrations" and wrote that they should be blamed on "the failure of individuals to follow known standards of discipline and Army values and, in some cases, the failure of a few leaders to enforce those standards of discipline."

Ryder told reporters at the Pennagon on Wednesday that the Army has since altered its interrogation policies and techniques, developed a new training program for correctional soldiers, and revised two doctrine manuals and created six new doctrine manuals and that relate to detention opera-

He said the Army also is planning to add 35 specialized correctional units over the next three years

"The Army has taken action ...," Ryder said. "This is an ongoing learning process."

Specifically at Abu Ghraib, the soldiers who have been criminally implicated in abuses were low-ranking military police soldiers who said they had little or no training in correctional opera-

Some also said they were approached by military intelligence officials to help in interrogation ef-



COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/A

U.S. Army military police escort a detainee to his cell in January 2002 at Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, cuba, where detainees from the war on terror have been kept since shortly after the invasion of Afghanistan. Abuse investigations at U.S. military prisons have prompted the Army to rework its detention operations at U.S. prisons worldwide, specifically in training soldiers about their roles.

forts that employed tactics that are considered torture by international standards, including the use of military working dogs.

Ryder also said the Army has retooled its interrogations manu-

al to clarify which tactics are approved and to define the "left and right boundaries," so less is left up to an interrogator's discretion and so the tactics comply with the Geneva Conventions.

Pope has surgery to insert breathing tube

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY - Pope John Paul II underwent a successful operation Thursday night to insert a tube in his throat to relieve his breathing problems, hours after he was rushed back to the hospital for the second time in a month with flu-like symptoms of

fever and congestion, the Vatican said The pope was conscious and back in his hospital room late Thursday, breathing with the help of a respirator, the Italian news

agency ANSA reported. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navar-ro-Valls said the tracheotomy was completed in "a positive way" and lasted 30 min-

Navarro-Valls said the pope had been informed of his situation and gave approval for the operation. John Paul will be spending the night at the hospital, the papal spokesman said.

John Paul was put under general anesthesia for the operation, Italian news agency ANSA reported.

Navarro-Valls said earlier in the day that John Paul, who was rushed to the Gemelli Polyclinico hospital shortly before 11 a.m., was hospitalized for "necessary specialized assistance and further tests.'

The tracheotomy likely will have serious consequences for the pope's abilities to carry on his duties. The operation would prevent him from able to speak for an extended

could still run the Roman Catholic Church even without that ability to communicate

Anesthesia is also risky for a person of the pope's age, especially considering the pontiff's Parkinson's disease.

Vatican officials said on the condition of anonymity that the pope was suffering breathing problems similar to those that sent him to Gemelli on Feb. 1, and Italian news reports said the latest respiratory cri-

sis was even more severe than the first one. Papal officials played down the seriousness of the hospitalization, saying a patient of the pope's age is always at risk from the flu. Vatican aides said on the condition of anonymity that the pope also had a fever and congestion.

ANSA reported that the pope was con-scious when he arrived at Gemelli and that he was sitting upright in a stretcher. According to the report, people who saw him enter the hospital said his face looked "quite re-

The frail 84-year-old pontiff had greeted pilgrims twice at the window of his studio at St. Peter's Square since his release from Gemelli on Feb. 10, and on Wednesday he made his longest public appearance since he fell ill more than three weeks ago.

With each successive appearance, he seemed a little stronger, a little more alert. and his voice rang out with greater clarity That made Thursday's reversal all the

more shocking for the faithful.

Visitors to New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral light candles Thursday. Roman Catholics ound the world stopped Thursday to pray for Pope John Paul II as word spread that the pontiff had been rushed to the hospital with the flu for the second time in a month.

Philippine police: Arrests halted attacks

By JIM COMEZ

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines - Police said Thursday that they thwarted planned attacks on an airport malls, a church and U.S. troops with the arrests of three members of an al-Qaida linked terror group who allegedly came to the Philippines to train Muslim militants to make hombs

The two Indonesians and a Malaysian - all alleged Jemaah Islamiyah members - were arrested southern Zamboanga city in December along with a Filipino member of the Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremist group with bomb-making manuals, bomb parts and money for attacks, officials said.

"We were able to foil an attempt to bring into the

country terrorists with firearms, with training materials, with explosives, before they can do their thing," Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes told reporters as the men were presented to media.

The men allegedly belonged to a previously un-known Jemaah Islamiyah terror cell in the country, the authorities said. The arrests were not immediately announced to allow authorities time to identify six of their local comrades, one of whom has been arrested, said Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, head of the

police Intelligence Group. Police intelligence officials said the targets included a Roman Catholic church and the airport in the bustling port city of Dayao, unspecified malls in Manila and U.S. soldiers participating in joint training

with the Philippine military

Bush, Putin agree to monitor nukes

BY TOM RAUM

The Associated Press BRATISLAVA. Slovakia President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed Thursday on new efforts to keep nuclear arms out of dangerous hands, but their sharp differences over Russian backsliding on democracy spilled into an open and sometimes-prickly exchange.

Seeking common ground with a former Cold War enemy that is now a key anti-terror partner, Bush said the two leaders stressed agreements over differences.

Standing side by side, their answers to questions about U.S. concerns that Putin is moving to solidify central power and quash dissent showed the sensitivity of the

"It's very important that all nations understand the great values inherent in democracy - rule of law and protection of minorities, viable political debate," Bush said. "And when I brought that -Vladimir can speak for himself on this issue. All I can tell you is he said, 'Yes meant yes when we talked about values that we

"Russia has made its choice in favor of democracy," Putin said. "This is our final choice and there is no way back, there can be no return to what we used to have.

As the leaders met for two hours at a medieval castle overlooking the snow-covered capital and the Danube River, aides inked an agreement designed to counter conventional and nuclear terrorism, in part by restricting

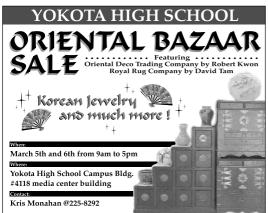


Presiden Bush, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands Thursday in Bratislava. Slovakia, after a press conference where Bush said they were in unison on the importance of stopping suspected nuclear weapons programs in North Korea and Iran.

the availability of shoulder-fired missiles capable of bringing down aircraft

"We agreed to accelerate our work to protect nuclear weapons and materials both in our two nations and around the world," Bush said.

The visit to Slovakia was the final leg on Bush's five-day tour to heal the rift caused by his March 2003 decision to invade Iraq without broad international



Victims of terrorist attacks fight back

By Andrew Selsky

The Associated Press BOGOTA, Colombia - Some came in wheelchairs, one man got on an airplane for the first time since his son died on Sept. 11, 2001, and all were re-

solved to speak out against the terror attacks that had left them wounded or missing loved ones. Hundreds came to Colombia's capital on Wednes

day for the opening of the second International Congress on Victims of Terrorism

Attendees came from the United States, Russia, Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

"I think that if we join together and say, 'We are still here. You may have taken our loved ones but you can't break our spirit,' that the terrorists will know they can't win," said Ken Thompson, whose mother was killed in the 1995 Oklahoma City bomb.

"The terrorists may even take us, but there will still be people behind us, fighting for what is just and right

U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Tony Rose was in the Pentagon when one of the hijacked planes plowed into the building that September day.

The plane hit just 30 feet from where he was standing, blowing him into a post and injuring him. A fireball incinerated troops near him.

"The only way we knew that pile of ash was one of my soldiers was from a watch or ring in the ash," he said. He described how he retrieved body parts from a huge drain as water covered with jet fuel flowed past. The severed hand of a small child appeared.

Rose's hands were full, but he was able to grab it

and put it in his pocket. We can allow ourselves to continue to be victims, but we can rise one step higher and take charge and kick butt if we need to," Rose told the audience.

Azamat Tarkanovich, whose father was among more than 330 hostages killed in the takeover of a school in Beslan, Russia, last September by Chech-en-led terrorists, said Russia is not doing enough to fight terrorism.

The first International Congress on Victims of Terrorism was held near Madrid last year, barely six weeks before the March 11 train bombings in the Spanish capital killed 190 people. Tarkanovich noted that if terrorist attacks across

the globe stop, a third congress might not have to be But no one here held such illusions. Those who

loved ones have been killed in previous attacks said

they could help relatives of future victims.

"The grieving process is the same regardless of race, religion or country," Thompson said.

"We all feet the prin." "We all feel the pain.



Residents walk past the wreckage of a hotel blown up by rebels in Puerto Toledo, Colombia, on Monday. Colombia was the site of the second International Congress on Victims of Terrorism.

Japan may put the squeeze on N. Korea

BY AUDREY MCAVOY The Associated Press

TOKYO - Could denying the gourmand dictator Kim Jong II sweet Japanese melons push North Korea back to the negotiating table? Or would forcing upper-crust North Korean omen to give up their favorite Japanese lipstick work? Japanese lawmakers are stretching their imaginations for ways to squeeze concessions out of North Korea amid mounting frustration over Pyongyang's failure to disclose all it knows about the Japanese it kidnapped in the 1970s and

"We could stop the melon trade. Then Kim Jong II wouldn't be able to eat delicious melons and he would be furious," said Ichita Yamamoto, a ruling party lawmaker "He would ask 'Where are my melons?' "

Prohibiting exports of fruit and cosmetics to North Korea are

among the more innocuous, and primarily symbolic, steps Yamamoto and his ruling Liberal Democratic Party colleagues have considered.

More seriously, they have suggested blocking all trade with the impoverished state and banning North Korean ships from Japanese ports.

So far, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has resisted punishing Pyongyang, suggesting economic sanctions could disrupt already troubled multilateral talks on dismantling the North's nuclear weapons pro-gram. Critics add that penalties would be pointless unless imposed in unison with other countries, especially the North's two biggest trading partners: China and South Korea.

But Vamamoto and his allies say sanctions would twist North Korea's arm enough to bring it back to the negotiating table and give in to Tokyo's demands.



Clams are sold at a Tokyo fish market Thursday, Aside from blocking melon shipments, Tokyo could pinch the North Korean ruling class by halting Japan's \$42.6 million in annual imports of North Korean clams.

Tokyo governor beats lawsuit over allegedly sexist remarks

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI The Associated Press

TOKYO - Tokyo's outspoken governor on Thursday beat a lawsuit in which he was accused of denigrating women past their child-rearing years, hinting that he agreed with the opinion it was "almost a crime" for them to go on living.

The Tokyo District Court rejected a demand that Gov. Shintaro Ishihara pay damages to 131 female plaintiffs for the remarks. The plaintiffs — teachers, company employees and housewives ages 20-70 who either live or work in Tokyo — filed the suit in December 2002.

They demanded that Ishihara publicly apologize and provide compensation totaling \$135,000 for comments made in a November 2001 magazine interview.

Court official Makoto Muraya ma confirmed that the demands had been rejected, but refused to give further details.

In the "Weekly Ladies" inter-

view, Ishihara, quoting a college professor, said "the worst thing a civilization has produced is an old hag," and added that "it's a waste. and almost a crime, for women to go on living even after losing their reproductive ability.'

"It might be true, but as a politician I can't

publicly say that," he concluded.

The article made a big splash. prompting the Japan Federation of Bar Asso-

issue a re

ciations to

port in 2003 condemning his remarks as "sexist verbal abuse" and opposition lawmakers in the Tokyo assembly to grill him over what he said. Ishihara has maintained he was only quoting the professor he knew, and has never offered an apology or retracted his com-

S. Korea shocked by suicide of actress

SEOUL-Leading South Korean actress Lee Eun-joo is known for dying on the screen. She dies of cancer, is killed in a car accident or is found dead in a car trunk Off the screen, the 24-year-old Lee also ended her life

in a dramatic way: on Tuesday, her brother found her hanging in her apartment's dressing room On Thursday, 70 film stars attended Lee's funeral, as

local Internet portals were flooded with notes from sad Local media reported Lee suffered depression follow-

ing her sexually explicit scenes in her last film, "Scarlet

U.S. Army deserter hopes to visit States

TOKYO - Forty years after defecting to North Korea, Charles Jenkins hopes to visit his U.S. homeland with his Japanese wife and their two North Korea-born daughters, a Japanese official said Thursday

Koichiro Takano, the mayor of Sado, the town where Jenkins and his family live, was quoted by a Sado official as saying the former U.S. Army sergeant would soon apply for a passport so he could go to the United States. Jenkins, 65, settled in his wife's hometown in Decem-

ber after serving 25 days in a U.S. military jail for aban-doning his Army post to defect to North Korea in 1965. He has said he would like to spend the rest of his life in

Fearful Buddhists break with tradition

BANGKOK, Thailand - Buddhists in southern Thailand fearing nighttime attacks by Islamic separatists broke with tradition Wednesday and performed an annual religious candlelight ceremony during daylight hours

About 90 percent of Thailand's population of 65 million are Buddhist and worshippers normally gather at temples on the evening of the Makha Bucha for a ceremony in which they carry lighted candles to mark Buddha's first sermon to his acolytes.

But in areas of southern Thailand hard-hit in the past year by attacks blamed on Muslim militants, some worshippers chose to perform the ceremony during the day.

Court rejects war laborers' demands

TOKYO - A Japanese court Thursday rejected a claim for compensation by a group of South Korean women who were allegedly forced to work during World War II at a Japanese aircraft factory run by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.

The plaintiffs are not eligible to seek compensation under a 1965 bilateral treaty between Japan and South Korea, Nagoya District Court Judge Kunio Sakuma ruled, Kyodo News agency reported. It did not elaborate on details of the treaty.

The plaintiffs - seven women and a relative of another who died - had demanded \$2.29 million in compensation and an apology from the Japanese government and Mit-subishi Heavy. They also demanded Mitsubishi pay the

wages they were never paid.

Nations study

Japan tsunami

alert system

Orphans use art to express tsunami loss

Exhibit will tour America, Europe

BY YEOH EN-LAI The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — One painting shows a surging blue wave cresting, about to crash into two houses and the surrounding paddy fields. Another shows little stick figures attempting to escape a wall of brown, debris-filled water.

These eyewitness accounts are by children left orphaned by the devastating Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami that destroyed their homes and killed their families. The pictures are simple but mov-

"This is my drawing of the overturned houses and people running for the mountain," said 12-year-old Faisal, whose painting is one of 300 that went on display in the provincial capital of Banda Aceh on Thursday.

"I ran for the hills," said the youngster from the island of Pulau Aceh, who lost his parents and five siblings in the disaster. "Once there, I stayed with

some people from the village."
The exhibit will run for a week before an expected tour next month in the United States and Europe as part of an effort to maintain support for the rebuilding of Aceh and other areas across the Indian Ocean basin devastated by the tsunam!

"We're now scouting locations for the exhibit in the United



An Acehnese orphan looks at sketches Thursday during an exhibition of more than 300 drawings by tsunami orphans in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. The exhibition will head to the United States and Europe in March as part of a drive to keep the Dec. 26 tragedy firmly etched in the minds of private foreign donors.

States, Britain, France and others," said Abdel Salam of the British-based aid group Islamic Relief, which sponsored the exhibit. "What we want is for people who cannot see this tragedy here to see it. These paintings may not be as pretty as a professional pictures but the images stick in your memory."

Islamic Relief and other aid organizations, including UNICEF and World Vision, have launched children's arts programs in many of Aceh's crowded camps to keep the idle youngsters busy. But the programs also are aimed at helping the children express their feelings about the tragedy and deal with the post-tsunami trauma, including nightmares.

Similar programs have been established in the tsunami-ravaged countries of Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The paintings in Indonesia por-

TOKYO — Indian Ocean nations planning a tsunami warning system studied Japan's network this week, looking at the country's coastal defenses and the way it broadcasts warnines and educates the nublic

about the dangers, officials said Thursday. The three-day visit by environmental and disaster prevention officials from Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and other countries struck by the Dec. 26 killer Asian tsunami includ-

ed a tour of facilities in a tsuna-

mi-prone area south of Tokyo. Visitors examined every aspect of Japan's tsunami warning system, which detects underwater earthquakes, estimates their potential for generating tsunami and then gets that information quickly to residents in coastal areas through broadcasts, Joudspeakers and

the Internet.

The seminar is part of the growing effort to establish a disaster warning system in the Indian Ocean by mid-2006.

Japan and the United States will start providing tsunami warnings to countries around the Indian Ocean next month as a stopgap measure.

The seminar came ahead of a U.N.-sponsored meeting in Paris starting next week focusing on how to design the southern Asian warning system. Officials hope to extend that system globally by 2007.

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ore than 300 drawings by tsunami tates and Europe in March as part e foreign donors. tray a horrific day in which churning water, overturned cars and destroyed homes filled their memories. The people in most paintings are either running away from the killer waves or seeking refuge on

rooftops or in coconut trees.

One, by 10-year-old Muazzih, showed a helicopter swooping low over hills to rescue him.

"This is my helicopter," he mut-

treed, nervously clasping his hands as he spoke of the tsunami that killed his two sisters and brother on Pulau Aceh, an island off the coast of Banda Aceh.

Officials say more than 30,000 children lost one or both parents to the tsunami, which has killed at least 123,000 people in Indonesia alone.

MILITEL





IN THE STATES



A grounds crew worker walks through a flooded bunker on the ninth hole at La Costa Country Club on Wednesday in Carlsbad, Calif. The dreary weather has left some California residents sulking.

Wet winter soaks California's image

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Looking to escape the gloomy Northwest, Denise Nienaber and her family flew to Southern California to visit Disneyland and enjoy some sunny weather.

They should have stayed home.
The family arrived from Seattle amid a storm of historic proportions that eventually forced
them to abandon the resort.

Nienaber, her husband and two Mienabers retreated to their motel to watch television and consider alternatives — somethind that has become necessary for tourists and locals alike as Southern California wades through the wettest winter in a century. The rainfall has totaled about 34

The rainfall has totaled about 34 inches in downtown Los Angeles since July 1, when California begins recording its yearly rainfall.

gins recording its yearly rainfall.

It's been far more than Seattle or Portland, Ore., in the same period

The wet weather has flooded freeways, sent houses skidding down hillsides and littered beaches with mountains of trash and tree limbs as storm runoff made its way to the ocean.

It's quite an adjustment in a place known for eternal sunshine.

People dodge puddles and scattered palm fronds in the streets, actually drive more slowly on the freeways, and even talk about the weather in a region that usually doesn't have any worth discuss-

"I just can't take this much longer. ... I just wish it would stop," said Judy Watkins, a chef in the (normally) arid resort town of Palm Desert.

The famed Southern California lifestyle has taken a big hit: Surfers have been advised to avoid the runoff-contaminated waves; puddles spread across empty tennis courts; and golfers trudge across muddy fairways.

DOD under fire from workers

Unions sue Rumsfeld over Defense's labor management system

By Jane M. Von Bergen

The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Ten labor unions representing 300,000 civilian employees of the Department of Defense, filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday against Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, saying Rumsfeld's department has refused to negotiate changes in its labor management system in violation of the law

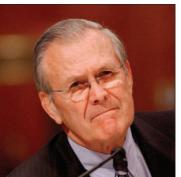
The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, comes after months of protests by the unions over proposals for a new National Security Personnel System, which was authorized for development by Congress in November 2003.

The unions say the system, which seeks flexibility in hiring and assigning workers for security reasons, is using threats to security as a way to diminish the unions' ability to advocate for workers.

The Department of Defense's Web site said the new system is needed to replace outmoded human resource practices and better support the department's "critical national security mission"

Bradley Bunn, NSPS deputy program executive officer, would not comment directly on the suit. But in a statement be said that "the proposed NSFS regulations are the product of a collaborative effort across the Department that ... included a number of meetings with employee representatives involving extensive and fruitful discussions."

The lawsuit said the Defense



ABACA PRESS/

In a lawsuit filed against Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, labor unions representing some Department of Defense civilian employees say the department is using security issues as a way to diminish the unions' ability to advocate for workers.

Department had the right to establish changes in the department's labor relations systems but, by law, those changes would have to be done in collaboration with employees.

Instead, the suit said, "secret working groups" developed changes privately and did not provide unions with concrete proposals.

The lawsuit asks the judge to restrain the Defense Department from implementing any

new labor systems until it provides drafts of proposals and enters into meaningful discussion. Among the unions filing suit

Among the umons thing surwere the International Association of Firefighters, the Laborers' International Union of North America, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and the American Federation of Government Employees. Besides Rumsfeld, the unions sued Dan G. Blair, acting director of the United States Office of Personnel Management

Former terrorists seek legitimacy

By KATHERINE SHRADER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One-time members of a terrorist organization are hiding in the United States — in plain sight.

The organization's former U.S. representative freely walks the streets and has a contract with Fox News as a foreign affairs analyst. Lawmakers write letters on the group's behalf. And former intelligence officials say the group maintains contacts in defense circles, although the Pentagon denies it.

A cult to some and freedom fighters to others, the National Council of Resistance of Iran and its affiliate groups typify the gray areas in the often black-and-white world of the war on terror.

While they've been designated foreign terrorist organizations by the State Department, the groups' members still maneuver between the restrictions aimed at disabling them.

The former U.S. representative for the council, Alireza Jafarzadeh, says the U.S. government listed his moderate elements within the Iranian government. He's hoping the Bush administration will lift the terrorist designation.

"I see increasingly more voices being raised against this designation in different parts within the administration and outside the administration," said Jafarzadeh, who notes that his group no longer exists in the United States but his free-speech rights allow him to discuss policies it once advocated.

"The more serious people get about Iran, the more they are against the designation," he said.

The mission of the National Council and its military wing — the Mujahedin-e-Khalq or MEK — is to over-throw the Iranian regime, an aim increasingly in line with the Bush administration. Yet the administration has stopped short of calling for regime change.

In last month's State of the Union speech, President Bush called Iran "the world's primary state sponsor of terror." In Europe this week, he maintained the pressure, calling

suggestions that the United States is preparing to attack Iran "simply ridiculous," but quickly adding, "having said that, all options are on the table."

Yet the MEK is far from a U.S.

any, a soon as the State Department created a list of terror organizations in early, it named the MeX, putting in a club, and the control of the control of

The State Department says the MEK groups were funded by Sadd-am Hussein, supported the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979 and are responsible for the deaths of Americans in the 1970s.

A State Department official said U.S. policy toward the MEK and its affiliates has not changed. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the group is still considered a threat because of its history of launching terrorist at-

Former congressman's conviction upheld

PIERRE, S.D. — The state's highest court on Thursday upheld Bill Janklow's conviction for a 2003 crash that killed a motorcyclist, rejecting the former congressman's argument that there wasn't enough evidence for a guilty verdict. Ruling unanimously, the South Dakota Supreme Court

also found that Janklow had received a fair trial.

Janklow, 65, was convicted of second-degree manslaughter and reckless driving for killing 55-year-old motorcyclist

ter and reckless driving for killing 55-year-old motorcyclist Randy Scott in August 2003 on a rural highway near Trent. Authorities said Janklow sped through a stop sign. Janklow has said he was in a diabetic stupor and remembers nothing about the crash.

Janklow resigned from the House in January 2004. He completed a 100-day jail sentence but had hoped to use the appeal to clear the felony from his record.

Court rules sperm use was not theft

CHICAGO — An appeals court said a man can press a claim for emotional distress after learning a former lover had used his sperm to have a baby. But he can't claim theft, the ruling said, because the sperm were hers to keep.

The ruling Wednesday by the Illinois Appellate Court sends Dr. Richard O. Phillips' distress case back to trial court.

Phillips accuses Dr. Sharon Irons of a "calculated, profound personal betrayal" after their affair six years ago, saying she secretly kept semen after they had oral sex, then used it to get preenant.

He said he didn't find out about the child for nearly two years, when Irons filed a paternity lawsuit. DNA tests confirmed Phillips was the father, the court papers state.

From The Associated Pres

Suspect in Honduras bus massacre arrested

BY SUZANNE GAMBOA

WASHINGTON — The reputed leader of a violent Honduran gang was using an alias, but the tattoos on his body gave him

alias, but the tattoos on his body gave him away.

Further checking revealed the man arrested in Texas on Feb. 10 was Ever Anibal

Tapeworm.

Rivera Paz had escaped Jan. 23 from a Honduran prison where he was being held on charges of masterminding an armed attack on a bus that killed 28 people, includ-

Rivera Paz, known as "El Culiche"

ing six children.

The bus had been filled with Christmas shoppers and workers heading home when it was attacked Dec. 23 in San Pedro Sula, about 125 miles north of the Honduran cap-

Texas authorities identified Rivera Paz by tattoos suggesting he was in the MS-13 gang

ital, Tegucigalpa. The attackers left behind a note saying they were part of a previously unknown revolutionary group opposed to the death penalty. Executions were stopped in Honduras in the 1950s.

Officials from the Homeland Security Department and the Honduran government said Wednesday that Rivera Paz was the leader of the Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, gang in Honduras.

Rivera Paz, 26, and fellow gang leader Alvaro "El Snoopy" Acosta, 27, who escaped with Rivera Paz, are "dangerous Mara members, capable of committing any kind of cold-blooded crime," Honduran Security Minister Oscar Alvarez said in Tegucigalpa.

A \$10,000 reward had been offered for their capture.

Rivera Paz, who uses the alias Franklin Jairo Rivera-Hernandez, was arrested by the Texas highway patrol about 100 miles north of the U.S.-Mexican border after authorities suspected the car he was in was smuggling undocumented immigrants.

He gave a false name, but his tattoos suggested he was an MS-13 gang member.

ested he was an MS-13 gang member.
U.S. Border Patrol agents stationed in

Honduras had alerted authorities in the United States that Rivera Paz might be trying to enter the country, Border Patrol

spokesman Salvador Zamora said.
"At booking when his information was emtered into a computer his name did give off red flags as far as an extensive criminal history," said John Guim, spokesman for the McAllen, Texas, sector of Customs and Border Protection. "He had attoos on his body, pretty extensive tattoos similar to those found on members of" MS-13.

The Honduran government said Rivera Paz's first U.S. arrest was in San Francisco on Nov. 30, 1993, while he was a juvenile and that he had been arrested several times since on U.S. charges including drug trafficking, car theft, robbery and assault.

Associated Press writers Freddy Cuevas in Tegucigalpa, Lynn Brezosky in Harlingen, Texas, and Traci Carl in El Salvador contributed to this report.

The selling of black history

Some say advertisers exploit a time meant to honor contributions of black Americans

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The green and yellow flier from the Kman in Aspen Hill, Md., proclaimed, "Celebrate Black History" and then advertised "3 for \$1 Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix" and "3 for \$10 Tone 6-Bar Soap." The makers of Metamucil and

Pepto-Bismol ran a full-page ad in this month's Ebony magazine declaring, "Black History Month is a legacy of pride and achievement leading to a healthier tomorrow." The ad continues, "It's the same ideals you turn to when it comes to your GI Health — a history of digestive solutions."

The advertisements are among dozens that tout laxatives, cars, even yoga classes under the guise of paying homage to African-American history. Educators and some civil rights activists say they are bothered by what they consider exploitation of a season meant to homor the contributions of black Americans. But marketing experts say the trend is rot greater than the contributions of the contribution of the contributions of the



THE WASHINGTON POST, SUSAN BIDDLE/LATWI

Deens Barlev, who teaches a civil rights course at a Maryland middle school, said of a Kmart promotion: "I was thinking the store was celebrating Black History Month. Then I looked further down the filler and saw that they were advertising Tone bar soap ... and cornbread mix. I thought, "No, they didn't!"

surprising in a nation that once considered draping advertising banners across the base of the Statue of Liberty.

"Eventually any piece of history or American culture gets trivialized by advertisers," said Barbara Lippert, the advertising critic for Adweek magazine. "They just use any opportunity as a platform to sell something. ... Everything becomes about buying and selling." Activist Jesse L. Jackson said

that some of the ads are produced by the same companies that "denied access" to blacks and that they trivialize the historic struggle.

In a statement, Kmart officials said the fliers are a "celebration of the contributions African-Americans have made to America's history."

Petty officer sentenced for ID thefts

NORFOLK, Va. — A Navy petty officer from the Baltimore area who stole the identities of nearly two dozen servicemembers was sentenced to 47 months in the brig, reduced in rank and discharged from the Navy. a military spokesman said.

Curtis Phillips, 28, was convicted of identity theft and three other charges relating to his enlistment and service during a general court-martial at the Navy Trial Service Office in Norfolk, Navy officials said Wednesday.

Four of the 22 victims, all of whom were stationed with Phillips aboard the aircraft carrier USS George Washington, testified during the proceedings, officials said.

Phillips was ordered to pay a \$2,200 fine, was reduced in rank to seaman recruit and was given a bad-conduct discharge, said Lt. Cmdr. Bob Mehal, a public affairs officer for the Navy.

Judge reschedules trial in civil rights killings

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — The trial of a reputed Klansman in the 1964 slayings of three civil rights workers has been delayed to April 19, in part to allow the defense time to review tips received as part of the reopened investigation.

Circuit Judge Marcus Gordon issued the ruling in the Edgar Ray Killen murder case during a brief hearing Thursday. He also said the three-week delay would allow more time to prepare a questionnaire for potential jurors.

Killen, an 80-year-old part-time preacher and former lumber mill operator, was indicted Jan. 6 for the 1964 murders of James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, who were in this rural area helping blacks register to vote. Killen, who remains free on bond, had been scheduled to stand trial March 2s.

Reduced sentence sought for teen killer

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A teenager who unsuccessfully blamed Zoloft for the slaying of his grandparents should never have been tried as an adult, his attorneys argued in seeking to reduce his 30-year prison sentence to probation.

In papers filed this week, attorneys for 15-year-old Christopher Pittman said the 2001 slayings were committed when the boy was 12, "when the frontal lobe of the brain — those areas most implicated in criminal culpability — is still in its infancy."
"How then can a civilized society assess the same culpability for,

"How then can a civilized society assess the same culpability for, and impose the same punishment on, a 12-year-old as you would impose on a grown man?" attorney Andy Vickery wrote. "Exposing such a person to the same punishment as an adult is excessive under any conceivable standard of decency."

Clear Channel, Stern resolve dispute

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Radio giant Clear Channel Communications Inc. and Howard Stern have agreed to withdraw lawsuits against each other related to Stern's ouster from the radio giant's airwaves because of indecency concerns.

Clear Channel, which pulled Stern off the air in February 2004, issued a statement saying the lawsuits and claims for money damages have been dropped by both sides. "We are pleased to resolve this contractual dis-

we are pleased to resolve his conflactual uspute with Howard Stern without further legal expense and delay," Clear Channel chief legal officer Andrew Levin said in a news release Wednesday, Stern's agent, Don Buchwald, did not return mes-

sages The Associated Press left Thursday with his New York office.

In July, Clear Channel agreed to a \$1.75 million settlement with the Federal Communications Com-

mission to resolve indecency complaints against the popular Stern and other radio personalities.

The FCC defines obscene material as describing sexual conduct "in a patently offensive way" and lacking "serious literary, artistic, political or



forcement of the indecency statute, perhaps most notably with a \$550,000 fine against CBS for Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" during last year's

Super Bowl halftime show.

In trading Thursday morning, Clear Channel shares fell 11 cents to \$33.79 on the New York Stock

FAA proposes new black box rules WASHINGTON — The black boxes that record events leading

which the black boxes that record events leading up to aircraft crashes must hold more data and have a more reliable power supply under a plan outlined Thursday by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Federal safety regulators have long urged the FAA to adopt strict-

er requirements for the black boxes after the devices failed to yield use information during the investigations of several fatal arrivarier accidents, including the 1998 crash of Swissair Flight 111 off the coast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the 1999 crash of Egyptair Flight 990 off the Nantucket coast.

"Good data is often the Rosetta Stone to deciphering what happened in an aircraft incident and what could happen in an accident," said FAA Administrator Marion Blakey.

The new rules require cockpit voice recorders, which record pilots' conversations, to retain at least two hours of audio and have a 10-minute backup power source. They are now only required to record 15 to 30 minutes of sound and don't have to have backup

From The Associated Pres

Author savs he regrets releasing Bush tapes

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - An old friend of President Bush who secretly recorded their private conversations and released them to the media said he has regrets and is turning the tapes over to

Doug Wead allowed journalists to hear and broadcast the tapes in the past week as he promoted his new book on presidential parents.

But he said he canceled plans to be on "Hardball" on MSNBC Tuesday night to talk about his regrets because "it would only add to the distraction I have caused to the president's important and historic work.

"Contrary to a statement that I made to the New York Times, I have come to realize that personal relationships are more important than history," Wead wrote in a letter to the show's host, Chris Matthews, that MSNBC released to the public on Wednesday

"I am asking my attorney to direct any future proceeds from the book to charity and to find the best way to vet these tapes and get them back to the president to whom they belong.

"History can wait."

On the tapes, recorded over the course of the two years before Bush became the Republican presidential nominee, Bush discusses strategy for his presidential run and appears to acknowledge past drug use.

He says he will refuse to answer questions about using LSD, cocaine and marijuana because "I don't want any kid doing what I tried to do 30 years ago

The White House said Bush did not dispute the content of the

The president's aides brushed off repeated questions about them during his tour of Europe this week by saying Bush considered them casual conversations "with someone he thought was a friend



Hunter S. Thompson was out there to the end — his final wishes include having his ashes blasted out of a on. Fireworks impresario Marc Williams, right, and employee Thomas Majors, posing with fireworks, want the job. Williams says he'd shoot the ashes 800 feet into the sky, then have a window-rattling second blast scatter them amid a massive bloom of color. Major would construct the ash container.

Going gonzo in last request

Thompson's ashes might be shot out of a cannon

The Associated Press

DENVER - Hunter S. Thompson, the "gonzo journalist" with a penchant for drugs, guns and flame-thrower prose, might have one more salvo in store for everyone: Friends and relatives want to blast his ashes out of a cannon, just as he wished

"If that's what he wanted, we'll see if we can pull it off," said historian Douglas Brinkley, a friend of Thompson's and now the family's spok

Thompson, who shot himself to death at his Aspen-area home Sunday at 67, said several times he wanted an artillery send-off for his remains. "There's no question, I'm sure that's what he

would want," said Mike Cleverly, a longtime friend and neighbor. "Hunter truly loved that kind of

Colorado fireworks impresario Marc Williams said it's doable

"Oh, sweet. I'd love to. I would so love to," said Williams, 44, owner of Night Musick Inc. in subur-ban Denver and a fan of Thompson's writing.

Thompson's wife, Anita, and son, Juan, are looking into the cannon scenario, said Brinkley, who has edited some of Thompson's work

In comments published Thursday, members of Thompson's family said the writer discussed com-

mitting suicide at least 10 years before he took his

"I've known for many, many years that this is how Hunter would go," Juan Thompson told the Rocky Mountain News in Thursday's editions. "It was just a question of when. This was a big sur-prise and I didn't expect it to be now, but the

means was exactly as we expected. Brinkley also said Thompson did not take his life "in a moment of haste or anger or despondency" but probably planned his suicide well in advance

because of declining health. The author of books including "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" was in pain from a host of problems that included a broken leg and a hip replacement. "I think he made a conscious decision that he had an incredible run of 67 years, lived the way he

wanted to, and wasn't going to suffer the indigni-ties of old age," Brinkley said. "He was not going to let anybody dictate how he was going to die.'

Thompson had spent an intimate weekend with his son, daughter-in-law and young grandson, the spokesman said.

"He was trying to really bond and be close to the family" before his suicide, Brinkley said. "This was not just an act of irrationality. It was a very pre-planned act.

If the Thompson job were his, Williams said, he would probably blast the ashes from a 12-inch diameter mortar 800 feet into the sky. Then a second, window-rattling blast would scatter them amid a blossom of color 600 feet across.

Coroner: Dogs, baby swings don't mix

Saturday, February 26, 2005

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS - Rocking your baby to sleep in a mechanical swing may trigger a deadly attack on the child by the family dog, a coroner warns.

At least two such deaths have been documented in Maryland over a four-year period, Dr. Albert Y. Chu of the state's medical examiner's office said Wednesday at a meeting in New Orleans of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

The back-and-forth motion may activate the dog's instinct to chase prey, he said.

"Think about dogs chasing cars or tennis balls. They can't control their behavior - they just go," he

In 2003, a 2-week-old boy was dragged from his swing and killed by the family's pit bull in Baltimore after the baby's mother left him to answer the front door. In Edgemere, Md., in 1999, a 3-month-old boy was mauled to death as his parents slept in another room

An Associated Press check of online news archives found at least one more death - that of an 18-day-old girl in Tampa, Fla., in 2000 after her mother left the room to warm a bottle for her and at least two nonfatal attacks around the country in the past few years.

In one of those cases, in Summerville, S.C., in 2003, the dog lunged for the baby and bit her in front of the child's mother

In 2000, Sabrina Williamson of Peru, Ind., had gone to the store while her husband napped in another room, not far from 9-week-old Alex. She walked back in and found her husband wrestling their pit bull off the baby. They had had the dog eight years, since Alex's brother was 4.

"I think it could be a key factor. Our dog had never been mean towards a child before," she said in a telephone interview.

The baby's face was bitten and bloody, and his collarbone was broken and protruding from his shoulder, police said.

More blacks, Latinos jailed

AUSTIN - More than 70 percent of inmates in Texas prisons are black or Latino, nearly doubling their percentage of the general population, according to a report released Thursday.

The report by the Washington, D.Cbased Justice Policy Institute found that blacks are sent to prison at a rate five times higher than whites in Texas. Latinos were incarcerated at twice the rate of whites, the report said

Gary Bledsoe, state director of the Texas National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said spending more money on education and health care would help people avoid the crimes that send them to prison.

State and House and Senate leaders are

considering expanding probation and drug treatment programs this legislative session as a way to curb the state's rising prison

Father stabs kids, kills self

COLUMBUS, Ga. - A father fatally stabbed his two young children and seriously wounded three others with a hunting knife before committing suicide by slitting his own throat, police said. The father, Clarence Lacey Moore, 24,

and the five children were found in a home in south Columbus after Wednesday's attack, police said.

Beverly Moore, the mother of all five children, was not injured, said police Maj Russell Traino. It was not immediately clear whether the three wounded children were related to Clarence Moore.

Pa. trooper fatally shoots self

LANCASTER, Pa. - A veteran state trooper fatally shot himself Wednesday, four days after authorities searched his home for items "related to child pornography," a state police official said.

Trooper Arthur J. Mizzoni, 49, was found dead in his pickup truck in the parking lot outside his barracks in Ephrata, about 60 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

Clay Township Police searched Mizzoni's home Saturday and seized "numerous items," said state police Capt. Steven McDaniel, the troop commander. They included computer equipment and supplies, pornographic magazines, advertisements and newspaper clippings with pictures of children, and Polaroid photos of children, according to court papers.

Hunter fined \$18M for fire

EDDING, Calif. - A lost hunter who started a forest fire in northern California while trying to keep warm was ordered to pay \$18.2 million restitution. The fire in the Mendocino National Forest burned 6,058 acres and cost \$33 million to suppress, authorities said. The restitution covers the U.S. Forest Service's cost of fighting the fire and restoring the burned area, prosecutors said.

Jason Hoskey, 26, of Willows, lit a campfire when he got lost hunting on Sept. 27, 2003. The fire spread after he fell asleep.

Flames had been banned in the area because of extreme fire danger. Prosecutors said Hoskey also violated the ban by smoking several cigarettes.

From wire reports

GOP coffers six times the size of Democrats

WASHINGTON - The Republican National Committee began the month with a 6-to-1 financial ad vantage over its Democratic counterpart, with \$16.5 million in the bank compared to the Democratic National Committee's \$2.6 million

The RNC raised \$10.5 million in January, according to its monthly report to the Federal Election Commission. The GOP spent \$8.7 million, including a \$1 million transfer to Senate Republicans' fund-raising committee and nearly \$1 million in telemarketing, according to an analysis by Political Money Line, a nonpartisan campaign finance track-

The DNC raised \$4.1 million last month, based on its FEC report.

It spent \$7.6 million, including a donation of \$1.5 million to Virginia Lt. Gov. Timothy Kaine's cam paign for governor and a \$1 million transfer to the Senate Democrats' fund-raising committee.

The disparity between the two national commitees in January fund raising illustrates the benefit President Bush's re-election to the White House can have day to day for his party. However, all is not lost for new DNC Chairman Howard Dean; in the last election cycle, though behind early on, the Democratic National Committee eventually exceeded the RNC in contributions by several million dol-

Also, the National Republican Senatorial Committee began February with \$1.7 million in the bank and no debt. It raised \$5.3 million in January and spent \$4.6 million.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee had \$475,648 left after paying off post-election debts. It raised nearly \$2.7 million last month and spent just under \$2.6 million

Civility campaign launched

Representatives aim to cut partisan warfare

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Democrat Steve Israel first met Republican Tim Johnson when Israel, in a rush to get out of town at the

end of a congres sional week, bloodied Johnson by the slamming door to the House chamber on his

foot. third-term confrom gressman Long Island, N.Y., says he looks back on that inadvert-



ent but nonetheless painful first encounter as emblematic of the attack-first, talk-later atmosphere in the House today. Now he's teamed with Johnson in the latest effort to make the House a more civil place

Johnson, a third-termer from rural Illinois, agrees that there has been "an exponential increase in the level of rancor, in the level of acrimony" that he says is a disservice to both the Congress and the country.

Reasonable compromise is difficult, he said, citing the current debate over Social Security reform where "one party is telling the other they are atavistic socialists from the 1930s and the other party is saving they are trying to starve old people

Israel and Johnson, in announcing the formation of the Center Aisle Caucus, say they hope to reduce partisan warfare through modest measures such as holding more informal briefings on issues and unscripted after-hours discussions, and giving minority Democrats more time to express their views.

Johnson said they will also be "blowing the whistle when members are unnecessarily disrespectful."

Israel noted that some of their ideas

originated in the House gym, "the most competitive but civil place on the Hill.' Separately, Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., said that, at the behest of Rules Committee Chairman David Drei er, R-Calif., she is organizing a task

force to study ways to improve civility.

"The level of debate in my four years has deteriorated," she said. "It's time to take a breath and respect each oth-

er's positions It's hardly the first time members of the notoriously partisan House have launched civility campaigns. In 1997 Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Ill., and former Rep. David Skaggs, D-Colo., came up with the idea of family retreats where Republicans and Democrats could get to know each other in informal settings. But they've since been discontinued because of waning interest.

In a historical perspective, the verbal assaults of today pale in compari-son to the dueling, shootings and bludgeonings that at times settled differences in the past.



time is often cited as a major reason Republicans and Democrats can't get along. The House frequently meets only on Tuesday, Wednes-day and Thursday. Israel and other members rush out the door Thursday after-

catch

The lack of face

noon to flights home, where they must cater to constituents and raise money for the next election. Many of today's younger members with school-age children never relocate to Washington.

The Senate — smaller, slower-paced and more clubbish — is traditionally better behaved, but has also shown some strong partisan tendencies recent ly with Democratic filibusters of GOP-backed judicial nominations and Republican attacks on former Demo cratic leader Tom Daschle.

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BY ALAN FRAM

The Associated Press WASHINGTON - It isn't hard to understand why few in Washington are taking President Bush's proposal to kill or cut 154

programs very seriously. Just listen to members of his own party. "It ought to be expanded, not eliminated," Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl says of aid to states with imprisoned criminal aliens, a \$300 million program Bush wants to

"We'll fight it with everything that's in us," Pennsylvania Rep John Peterson says of the president's plan to end vocational education subsidies running \$1.2 bil-

lion annually. Bush proposed the cuts this month as part of his \$2.57 trillion budget for 2006. He wants to trim nonsecurity programs - except automatically paid benefits like Medicare — by an overall 1 percent from this year's levels, the first such reduction proposed in a presidential budget since Presi-

dent Reagan was in office Of Bush's 154 targets, the Education Department would suffer the most losses: He would kill 48 of its programs worth about \$4.3 billion and cut two others.

They range from vocational education aid distributed to states and communities nationwide to the B.J. Stupak Olympic scholar-

It provides \$1 million for athletes training at the four U.S. Olympic training centers - including Northern Michigan Uni-versity, in the district of the program's sponsor, Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich.

Bush plan to kill, cut programs faces long odds

Program cuts in Bush's budget proposal President Bush has submitted a 2006 budget to Congress that requests eliminating or sharply reducing spending on 154 government programs.

seed eliminations or spending cuts in 2006 hudget

Proposed eliminatio	ns or spending ci	uts in 2006 budge
: To	otal: 154 programs	
99 proposed e	55 proposed	
Departments with th		reductions
most eliminations	PROGRAMS	2005 COST (IN MILLIONS
Education	48	\$4,263
Health and Human S	Services 14	970
Justice	9	1,528
Agriculture	5	306
Interior	4	117

Source: The White House

The program is named for the lawmaker's late son. Another nine Justice Depart-

ment programs worth \$1.5 billion would be erased, including grants for hiring local police officers and for communications equipment.

Bush's rationale for the cuts is the need to control relentless federal deficits that the White House expects to set a third straight record this year, hitting \$427 billion. He also would slow the growth of the Pentagon's budget and pluck savings from Medicaid, farm aid, veterans payments and other benefit programs.

Many interest groups and members of Congress, including plenty of the president's fellow Republicans, think what's unwise are his proposed cuts. That's why his plan to save \$15.3 billion by eliminating 99 programs and cutting 55 others faces bleak prospects.

"We want to be fiscally responsible." House Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., said of the 28 agriculture programs Bush would cut or abol-"But we also want to make sure American agriculture re-mains competitive."

"Will we get everything we want? Probably not, but by doing this we help assure overall spending isn't growing so fast" that it hinders Bush's effort to control deficits, said White House budget office spokesman Chad Kolton

끊 Yokota Baptist Church Pastor Warren Webster 日本語訳もあります YBC services are interpreted in Japanese DEACHING THE MILITARY AND IADAN ONE DEDSON AT A TIME

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Off-color video gets official criticized

Juvenile justice chief showed Chris Rock skit in meeting with NAACP

BY BRENDAN FARRINGTON

TALLAHASSEE Fla - Six black lawmakers called for the removal of the head of the state's juvenile justice department for showing a video by comedian Chris Rock at a meeting with civil rights activ-

One lawmaker called the black comedi-an's 4-minute skit — "How To Not Get Your Ass Kicked By The Police" — "absolutely racist.'

A member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People who attended the viewing last July said no one complained.

The skit, which came from Rock's former HBO comedy show, was shown in the office of Juvenile Justice Secretary Anthony Schembri - the former head of New York City's jails who was the model for the

1991-1995 offbeat television show "The

Rock's tins for young blacks include driv ing with a white friend, and turning down loud rap music when pulled over. The video also shows scenes where actors dressed as police pretend to beat up blacks who didn't follow Rock's advice — a driver who jumps out of his car during a traffic stop and starts yelling profanities, and a man who jumps a subway turnstile while smoking marijuana and carrying a gun.

"I found this as being totally and abso lutely racist, there's no way around it.' said Democratic state Sen. Mandy Dawson, who was joined by five other black lawmakers. "It doesn't make sense to me to show this type of video under any circumstances to the NAACP.

Schembri's spokesman, Tom Denham, said the video was part of a discussion on racial profiling. He said Schembri, who is white, previously used it when teaching college courses as a way to open up discussion on profiling.

"The secretary is a very colorful and unusual man and he likes to push the envelope and get people to think about things," Denham said, adding the video was never meant to be used to train staff and administrators, as the lawmakers alleged.

"I would like to apologize. I did not mean to offend anyone," Schembri said through a spokesman. William H. Booth, a retired New York

City judge and an NAACP member, said he was at the meeting and no one complained about the video. He said Schembri used it as an example of how the media can contribute to attitudes about profiling.

"I've never known him to be prejudiced in any way," said Booth, who knew Schem-bri in New York. "I don't think he's got a racial bone in his body

Rock's publicists would not comment



Saturday, February 26, 2005

Comedian and actor Chris Rock is known for his edgy material. Florida Juvenile Justice Secretary Anthony Schembri showed one of Rock's skits, "How To Not Get Your Ass Kicked By The Police," during a meeting with the NAACP on racial profiling.



keley Mayor Tom Bates, shown on the roof of his office building, is suing the University of California to k campus expansion plans, the latest episode in long-simmering tensions between the school and the t

City of Berkeley sues school over campus expansion plan

By MICHELLE LOCKE

The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. - The University of California, Berkeley, a hotbed of student protests during the Vietnam War, finds itself back in an uncomfortable spotlight with a city lawsuit over its long-range

City leaders have taken their university to court in hopes of blocking construction on its 15-year growth plan, arguing that campus administrators didn't adequately evaluate the consequences to the city

The flap is the latest in a series of town-gown spats across the country as modern-day budget constraints intensify age-old friction between schools and their surrounding communities

A number of other University of California campuses are embroiled in disagreements with their cit-ies, including Santa Cruz, where officials are wary of that campus' expansion plan.

One twist in the Berkeley vs. Berkeley face-off is that it is being led by Mayor Tom Bates, a graduate of the same campus he is now suing and a starting member of the 1959 Rose Bowl team

"As a proud alumnus of the University of California, I'm disappointed that we're here today to file the lawsuit, but we want a fair and lasting partner ship with the university," Bates said.

The suit, filed Wednesday, alleges that a campus environmental impact report, approved last month by the university's governing board of regents, doesn't adequately evaluate the consequences of adding up to 2.2 million square feet of space and about 2,000 parking spaces.

"The university has, in essence, asked us to sign the equivalent of a blank check that will allow them to build wherever, whenever and however it would like," Bates said. "This lawsuit firmly states that we are not willing to sign anything until we know what we're buying

Bates also announced that the city plans to start billing UC Berkeley for sewage service and parking taxes and is prepared to sue if the campus balks at

Campus officials counter that they are tax-exempt as a public agency. They defended their environmental report as meeting all legal requirements.

Berkeley administrators said they sympathize with the city's tight financial situation but, "it is in no one's interest for one public agency to sue another to address a budget shortfall.

While town-gown tensions often have flared over alcohol abuse and noise, the recent focus has been on money, said Sheldon Steinbach, general counsel for the American Council on Education in Washing-

"Over the last almost 40 years the principal point of friction has been over monetary issues as locali ties and states have become increasingly strapped for funds," he said.

College kids turning Wal-Mart into cure for campus boredom

after 9 p.m.,

and you can

get away

with more.

AND LAURA STEVENS The Wall Street Journal

snowy Monday night recently, Northern Arizona University freshman Natalie Eickmeyer finished her studying and decided to go out and have some fun. So at 10 o'clock, after scouring a dormitory for participants, she and five friends headed to the Wal-Mart discount center

The students had no intention of shopping. They were going to Wal-Mart to play games. That night, she and her pal

Zimmer. man, a college jun-ion decided the group would play "10 in 10." The captains of the two teams each spend 10 minutes putting 10 items a shopping

The carts are turned over to the opposing teams which have to figure out where the items came from

and return them to the shelves where they belong. That's no easy feat in a store stocked with more than 100,000 different items. The first team back to the checkout counters with an empty cart is declared the winner.

"It's big, it's the only thing open after 9 p.m., and you can get away with more," said Eickmeyer, ex-plaining why she and her friends regularly use Wal-Mart for various challenges

From scavenger hunts and aisle football to a relay race limbo under the shopping-cart stand, college students around the country - particularly in rural areas — have found Wal-Mart's endless aisles and 24-hour operations to be perfect for middle-of-the-night

Students at Taylor University in Upland, Ind., a liberal-arts school surrounded by cornfields, sign a contract promising not to drink, take drugs or have premari-tal sex. A dormitory there organizes wholesome activities, including group dates that begin at a res-taurant and end at a Wal-Mart for a scavenger hunt, says Elizabeth Diffin, a senior at the university. They typically play a version called "A-Z," where the team that first finds an item for every letter of the alphabet wins.

Eugene Orr, manager of the Flagstaff Wal-Mart, says he's aware that col-

44 It's big, it's the high-school kids conduct scavenonly thing open ger hunts and play other games in his store. "I don't think it's a big deal," he says. "But when they leave every thing in the baskets and carts, it's really discour-

Natalie Eickmever Freshman, aging to the asso-Northern Arizona University ciates, because it creates extra work for them and takes away

from customer service. The games vary from college to

college. When Kerry Ahern and her boyfriend, Lance Greer, are bored, they play aisle football at Wal-Mart, a game they made up to pass the time in Easton, Pa., where Ahern is a senior at Lafay ette College.

In this game. Ahern and Green scout out two goal posts several aisles apart — fishing-tackle aisles apart boxes and bedding, for instance. Then they pass the football and try to tag the receiver.

We play during the day and people give us all sorts of dirty looks," says Ahern. "The ball once hit someone shopping. She was not pleased."

Sex educator to advance family life program

BY RUTH PADAWER

The (Hackensack, N.J.) Record

HACKENSACK N.I - When New Jer sey became the sex-ed capital of the world, Danene Sorace had only a rough idea of where babies came from

After all, she was 10. Today, Sorace, 32, knows all the details and is determined to pass them on. She has been tapped to lead the Network for Family Life Education, the group responsible for the state's nationally recognized - and aggressively frank -K-12 family life curriculum. In that post. she will be the pipeline to the nation's 30 million teens.

It won't be easy. The handoff comes at a time when the nation is embroiled in a passionate debate about how to address teen sexual behavior. Opponents of comprehensive sex education have gained significant ground, with an ally in the White House and millions of dollars to back their cause. At the same time, teens continue to be ill in formed.

"These kids are bombarded by the media with sexual images and innuendo and they take on a persona of sophistication, but there is a total disconnect between what they think they know and what they actually know," says Sorace. Ignorance aside, 30 percent of the nation's 15-year-olds are having sex, according to the most recent national survey.

Nearly one-quarter of suburban teens ages 13 to 16 have been sexually intimate. compared with 33 percent of urban teens. Overall, 12 percent of kids that age have had oral sex.

The Network for Family Life Education, formed by a Rutgers University professor more than two decades ago, pressed Trenton to mandate state-sponsored sex ed, arguing that the more informed students were, the more ably they would avoid pregnancy and disease. Opponents were anpalled, suing the state Board of Education all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court and contending that explicit sex education would encourage promiscuity and usurp the role of parents.

When that effort failed New Jersey hecame the first state in the country to require sex ed in every grade of school.

Though the network's initial focus was on training health teachers and helping local districts implement the state curricu lum, more than three-quarters of the group's \$1.3 million budget now goes to reaching teens directly. It publishes a newsletter for teens by teens that reaches 2.4 million adolescents in 50 states through

schools, local health departments and juve nile justice centers.

It also runs a Web site called "Sex. Etc." that reaches 12 million teens a year. More than 40,000 visit daily, trolling through columns on relationships, health, body image, sexual orientation, drug abuse and prevent-ing pregnancy and disease. Teens also fire deeply personal questions at the site's online health experts, who provide candid, timely answers.

Sorace didn't grow up thinking she would spend her professional life talking about sey Raised in rural Pennsylvania she wanted to be an interior designer, even making her own business cards at age 11 and calling her company Rainbow Interiors

But after graduating from Albright College with a bachelor's in psychobiology, she was hired to lead teen health initiatives at a family planning consortium in Pennsyl. vania and direct the state Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Only 22 years old she was the youngest in an office of 35.

In 1998, Sorace joined the Network for Family Life Education. By 2000, she had become its program manager, supervising its staff, managing its budget and leading its ever more challenging fund-raising operations. (Rutgers provides only office space, not money.) During that time, she



Danene Sorace is the director of the Network for Family Life Education at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

also earned a master's in public policy

from Rutgers.

Over Sorace's desk, near the flashlight-turned-torch, is a small print with the words: "In my dream, the angel shrugged and said. If we fail this time, it will be a failure of imagination.' And then she placed the world gently in the palm of my hand.'

Study shows estrogen pills worsen incontinence

BY LINDSEY TANNER

The Associated Press

CHICAGO - A new study adds incontinence to the list of ail-ments that hormone pills had been thought to help prevent, but now appear to worsen, at least in older women

Estrogen pills with or without progestin increased postmeno-pausal women's risk of developing incontinence, and also ap-peared to make it worse in women who already had the vexing problem.

The findings came from the landmark government study that in the past few years linked the widely used supplements to a higher risk of heart attacks, strokes, breast cancer and

"We were hoping to find a gleam of hope for estrogen" after all the Hormone therapy is now included in the list of possible causes of incontinence in women. A new study shows estrogen doubled the risk of stress

Bladder incontinence - an Urethra involuntary loss of urine Pelvic resulting from a weakness in the pelvic muscle

Another cause of urinary incontinence

Source: Journal of the American Medical As

earlier negative findings, but the results with incontinence were disappointing, too, said lead author Dr. Susan Hendrix, a gynecologist at Wayne State University

The findings, published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association, come from research on 27,347 women, ages 50 to 79, participating in the Women's Health Initiative study

Compared with women taking dummy pills, those on estrogen pills for one year were 53 percent more likely to develop urinary in continence by year's end. Those on nills containing both estrogen and progestin faced a 39 percent higher risk.

The highest risks were for stress incontinence - urine leakage prompted by pressure on the lower abdomen from sneezing, laughing, coughing or walking. It can result from weak pelvic muscles. Women taking estrogen pills faced more than double the risk of developing stress incontinence, and risks were almost as high for women on pills containing both hormones.

Also, women who already had any incontinence faced increased risks of it worsening after a year - a nearly 60 percent higher risk for those on estrogen-only pills and a 20 percent higher risk for those on combined pills, compared with the placebo group.

Electronic knees may improve replacements BY LEE BOWMAN Enter the e-knee, which con-

Scripps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON - Just how many times does your knee flex and what kind of load does it bear when you climb a flight of stairs, ride a bike or shift gears while driving? It might be hard to keep track, but researchers working to-ward more durable artificial joints are finding out the details thanks to electronic knees

Researchers from the Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, Calif., presented data collected from an e-knee implanted in a patient who had al ready had a hip replacement and total knee replacement in his other knee, but continues a physically active lifestyle.

Their presentation before the annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons on Wednesday is one of several dealing with the need to provide more sophisticated and durable artificial joints.

Each year, 267,000 total knee replacement surgeries are done in the United States, with increasing proportions of surgeries done in patients in their 40s and 50s who have been leading an active lifestyle and expect to continue doing so

Arthritis is the leading cause of degeneration in the knee joint requiring the surgery, but arthritis itself can be a matter of aging or response to severe injury of the knee in the past.

There is increasing concern that many knee implant recipi ents may outlive their plastic and metal artificial joints, forcing them to undergo repeat surgery The surgery is seldom as success ful the second time around and rehabilitation takes longer in older tains sensors that measure the strain across the knee that changes within the device as the natient moves

An antenna transmits electronic signals from the device into a computer system that measures the actual loads in pounds.

"Up until now, we relied on mathematical modeling to estimate forces distributed within the knee joint," said Dr. Clifford Caldwell, director of the Shiley Center for Orthopaedic Research and Education at the Scripps Clinic. "Now we have hard data that measures exactly how much force is placed on the joint when a patient performs various move ments, such as walking, bicycling or swinging a golf club

In recent months, the study has shown that total forces measured in the natient's knee are about 2.2 times body weight while walking and 2.5 times body weight when climbing stairs. Rising from a chair produced peak forces 1.5 times hady weight Those measurements are signif-

icantly lower than the loads predicted by computer modeling, which showed that climbing stairs produced a force 5.4 times body weight and walking 3.1 times body weight.

That's important because materials can be designed less dense but more durable if they don't have to support such extreme loads, the researchers said.

"These specific measurements may not only result in better implant design, but could also enable us to measure the effectiveness of postoperative physical therapy, overall rehabilitation, bracing and use of corrective orthotics," Caldwell said.

Data: High levels of perchlorate in breast milk

San Francisco Chronicle

A team of Texas Tech University researchers has found a contaminant from rocket fuel in women's breast milk at five times the average level found in dairy milk.

This first study in breast milk of perchlorate, a chemical that interferes with the thyroid, indicates that the majority of breast-feeding infants would be exceeding the safe daily dose set by the Na tional Academy of Sciences.

The peer-reviewed data pub-

lished Tuesday in the journal Environmental Science & Technology reported perchlorate in 36 milk samples from women in 18 states and in all but one of 47 cow milk samples from 11 states. The average level in breast milk was 10.5 parts per billion, with a high of 92 ppb, while the average in cow's milk was 2 ppb with a high

Perchlorate, a salt, can impair a person's ability to take up iodide, a form of iodine and the

of 11 ppb.

building block of thyroid hormones that control brain development. High levels of perchlorate in the body also may reduce the amount of jodide in breast milk Iodide is particularly important for infants.

Environmentalists immediate ental Protection Agency

ly responded to the new study by saving it should force the Environadopt a drinking-water standard for perchlorate - and one that is strict enough to protect infants. They want a standard of 1 ppb.

FACES

New Academy members deal with first-time voting jitters

BY BETH HARRIS The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES eith David popped in a DVD of "Vera Drake" and settled into the comfort of his pil-low-strewn brown sofa. The veteran actor had decisions to make - lots of them — that would affect careers and coffers alike

David is a new member of one of the world's most exclusive voting blocs, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences He's deciding for the very first time who gets to go home with an Oscar on Sunday.

"My vote counts," he said. "It's like I'm the Electoral Col-

David, animator Brad Bird, actress Scarlett Johansson and costume designer David C. Robinson were among 127 people invit-ed to join the 5,808-member academy last year.

"It's really nice to be able to feel like you have some part of who is recognized," said Johansson, 20, one of the voungest vot-"Maybe I should've done a bet with somebody to see if my picks win. Watching 35 movies — plus 10

short subjects and 10 documentaries - and listening to five CDs of nominated songs in barely three weeks would be nirvana to most film fans.

But it's been a race to the deadline - a very firm deadline that passed at 5 p.m. Tuesday - for many academy members, most of whom have jobs and families to attend to each day. David, for instance, had to cram two or three movies in after midnight one recent evening.

Bird's also felt the squeeze

"I feel a real rush, almost a panic, to see them all," he says, "so I'm voting from a place of knowledge and not just because I know someone on a film or I like someone on a film.'

Sometimes, the movies meld into a confusing blur.

Bird, nominated this year for original screenplay and animated feature for "The Incredi-bles," recently attended the academy's nominees luncheon and met best-actress contender Annette Bening. He told her he loved her in "Finding Julia.

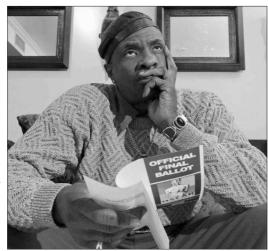
Oops! Bird had confused "Being Julia" with best-picture nominee "Finding Neverland."

"I immediately corrected myself." he said. "T've seen so many in so little time."

Bird took his screeners - the free tapes and DVDs of the nominees - with him everywhere and watched at least one a day. During idle moments, he even resorted to seeing some on his

computer. Animated feature and original screenplay were Bird's easiest

votes - for himself.



At his home in Los Angeles, first-time Oscar voter Keith David watches actress Imelda Staunton's performance in "Vera Drake," which earned her an Academy Award nomination for best actress. He was racing to view all the films nominated before the ballot deadline Tuesday.

"I feel like I did a good job," he said modestly

Robinson, the New York-ased costume designer, based watched three movies a day. If he wasn't vot-

ing, he acknowledged he probably would have skipped "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events' and "Hotel Rwanda."

"It's not brain surgery," he said. "It's the performances and movies visual things that grab you and make you feel something. I'm going to pick the things that do that," he said in a phone

interview last

So, did any of our first-timers

"If I felt two works were equal-

ly good and I liked one person

more than another, it would

vote for pals or someone who

helped them get a job?

week

44 It's not brain surgery. It's the performances and movies and visual things that arab you

and make uou feel something. I'm going to pick the things that do that. ??

> **David Robinson** Costume designer and Academy Award voter

push it over," Bird admitted. 'But in the end, you're voting on the work

Some Academy members, including Johansson, simply don't

> categories, so they abstain from voting in contests they haven't seen. "You want to he able to really give a fair

have the time

to review all 24

judgment. said the busy Others skip the more technical catego-

ries, professing ignorance about the nuances of crafts such as sound mixing, sound editing, visual effects and cin-

ematography. But not David, a Tony- and Emmy-nominated actor whose credits include "There's Something About Mary," "Head of

State" and "Barbershop." "It's my opinion," he said. "Even if I don't know enough

about it, when I look at the movie, I look at that aspect. I know how a good editor can save ... a bad director.

After watching "Vera Drake on his 36-inch television, David scribbled down notes detailing what he liked about the illegal abortion drama starring best-actress nominee Imelda Staunton

"Torn doesn't begin to describe it," he said. "A lot of them get the same mark, so I go back and narrow it down. The few movies that I'm very hot on, I go back and watch them again. It's hard to compare actors unless you saw them all play the same

Bird will be in the Kodak Theatre audience on Oscar night and Johansson will be a presenter. David and Robinson, meanwhile, will have to watch the fruits of their labors on TV because there's not enough room at the Kodak for every academy

But that hasn't dimmed Dayid's regard for Hollywood's highest honor.

"I'm very glad they changed the language to 'The Oscar goes to,' instead of 'The winner is,' David said. "There are no losers

Prince gets NAACP kudos

Prince may be a man of many names, but the NAACP likes his

image regardless.

The "Purple Rain" singer will be honored with the 2005 NAACP Vanguard Award in a Los Angeles ceremony. The presentation will take place during the 36th annual NAACP Image Awards ceremony on March 19, which will be broadcast March 25 on Fox television

"During Prince '80s, emerged as the musical prophet of the era, releasing a series of albums that both define and captured the spirit of the times," the National Associa-tion for the Advancement of Colored People said in



a statement. "His genre-bending songs sent shock waves through the music industry that still reverberate today."

The award is given to those who have worked to increase understanding and awareness of racial and social issues. The previous honorees are film director Steven Spielberg and

movie producer Stanley Kramer. Earlier this month, Prince won two Grammy Awards - for best male R&B vocal performance for "Call My Name," a single from his most recent album, "Musicology," and best traditional R&B vocal performance for "Musicology."

First 'Idol' to tour solo

Kelly Clarkson is hitting the road on her first solo headline tour.

Clarkson, winner of the first "American Idol" competition, will open "The Breakaway Tour" March 30 in Tulsa. Okla. The tour will end in Vancouver. British Columbia May 29.

"Nothing makes me happier than being on the road," the 22-year-old singer said in a statement Tuesday, "I can't wait to see the fans and perform my new material."

Clarkson



perform in mostly venues, which she says "will be a great opnortunity for me to connect with my

die-hard fans in an intimate setting. Other stops on the 34-city tour include New York, Los Angeles and Chi-

Film too hot for Taiwan

Director Tsai Ming-liang says he won't release his award-winning film "The Wayward Cloud" in his native Taiwan if the island's censors insist on cutting any of its sexually explicit scenes.

The film won a Silver Bear from the Berlin International Film Festival Saturday for outstanding artistic contribution. The movie stars Lee Kang-sheng, who plays a porn film actor caught between his longtime on-screen partner and his girlfriend.

The movie includes oral sex, nudity and other sexually explicit scenes.

Tsai said he sought to use the film to explore the bewildering subject of the human body

"It will not be shown unless in its totality," Tsai told TV reporters.

Stories and photos from wire services

YOUR MONEY

Bank fees add up, but some can be avoided

BY IEVA M. AUGSTUMS The Dallas Morning News

No matter where you bank these days, there are service fees and they can easily add up

If you grab cash out of another bank's ATM, be prepared to pay a couple of

44 "We have to have fees. It

costs money to run a

financial institution."

77

vour plus another conple to the ATM's

bank draw vour account or

bounce a check, and your bank can slap you with an overdraft fee and an insufficient-funds fee. The person or company that you wrote the check to may also charge you a fee.

And if you believe you're get-

ting free checking, think again. At the very least, you're going to have to pay for the checks.

"We have to have fees," said Gail Enda, senior vice president of marketing and member services at American Airlines Federal Credit Union. "It costs money to run a financial institution." But that doesn't mean you have

to be the one to pay the fees. Simply put, poorer customers cost banks money. If a customer

doesn't keep much money deposit-ed in a bank but demands a lot of a bank loses money.

In 2001, the average consumer who couldn't afford to meet minimum balance requirements on a

Smart customers find ways to save money

regular checking account paid \$228 in fees, according to the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. Industry experts say that

amount is higher today, as banks continue to in.

raise existing fees Senior vice president of marketing and vent new member services at ones and American Airlines Federal Credit Union make it harder to

As with many businesses, the more you buy, the more discounts you get. If you have fewer accounts at your bank, you can expect to have less flexibility with

It's very difficult to find an account that is completely fee-free. Banks and credit unions offer no-frills, no-interest checking accounts, but there always seems to

be some sort of catch. "Everyone advertises free checking, but there's not a fee unless you do something wrong. said John Sutton, vice president of branch operations for Credit Union of Texas, "Plus, if you want checks for your checking account, you are going to have to pay for them.

Also, having just one account doesn't necessarily give you privileges of other bank services. An

additional fee may be charged for products such as overdraft protection and online bill paying.

Why the charge: The account may be free to the customer, but the bank still has to pay transaction costs.

The cost: Free, if you keep your account in good standing. If you want to write checks, you are going to have to buy them.

How to avoid them: There are many companies out there that provide and print checks for less than what you pay if you ordered them through your bank. Or you can try to only use debit cards and online bill paying.

If you need cash and use another bank's ATM, you are going to be assessed an out-of-network

In 2002, 69 percent of the nation's banks charged fees for nonbank customer withdrawals, according to the Federal Reserve About 10 percent of banks and savings associations charged an annual fee, which averaged nearly \$12 for ATM services.

"If you're going out on a Friday night, you have to make sure you don't use the ATM at the bar, because it's going to cost you some-thing like \$6." said Jim Tehan of Myvesta, a consumer education group.

"Those that want convenience will pay for it."

Why the charge: When you pay an access fee, you are paying for EXCHANGE RATES

102.00

the delivery of your cash where you are, when you need it - 24

hours a day, seven days a week.

The cost: Plan on paying \$1 to to the bank that owns the ATM, plus anywhere from \$1 to \$3 to your bank

How to avoid them: Use your own bank's ATMs or those owned by institutions that do not charge fees to noncustomers. And if you frequently use another bank's ATM, consider making larger withdrawals so that you incur fewer ATM access fees

If an account balance has slipped below the minimum your bank requires, you may incur a single monthly fee.

If you have money in multiple accounts or do some other business with them, such as an auto or home loan, ask whether the balances can be combined to meet the minimum requirements.

"Each bank is going to offer many different programs," Tehan said. "If one doesn't work for you, you just need to shop

Why the charge: The account may be free to the customer, but the bank still has to pay transaction costs. The cost: Ranges from a couple

of dollars on up, depending on the type of account and whether it ac-

How to avoid them: Maintain the balance.

... You thought you had enough money in your checking account when you withdrew money from

the ATM, but you didn't. As a courtesy, the bank probably will cover the expense. However, it'll cost you.

Why the charge: The bank is paying for and fixing your mis-

The cost: In 2002, the average overdraft and insufficient-fun fee at Texas banks were both a little more than \$22 each. An additional fee may be charged for every day your account is over-

How to avoid them: If you occasionally bounce checks, resolve to keep a cushion in your account. Start by leaving \$200 in your account and pretending it's not there. Don't think you can afford the \$200? If you're the average bank customer, you probably

Another option is to sign up for overdraft protection (sometimes it's free). And don't count on a lag time between the time you write a check and it hits your bank. With technological and regulatory changes, that time is disappear-

More banks are using the Internet to offer products and services or otherwise enhance communications with consumers. Unlike a hank branch, online banking sites never close. They're available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and they're only a mouse click

"Online bill pay can be very convenient with certain ac-counts," said Consumer Action spokeswoman Linda Sherry. "If you're comfortable with the technology, it can be very cost-effec-

Why the charge: Most banks pass on a provider and convenience fee to their customers. The cost: If not free, average

monthly costs range from \$5 to \$6

How to avoid them: Find a bank that doesn't charge.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

Indexes										
High	week Low	Name	Last	Net Chg		YTD % Chg				
10.868.07	9,708,40	Dow Jones Industrials	10.673.79	+62.59	+,59	-1.01	+.68			
3,823,96	2,743,46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,611,74	+71.59	+2.02	-4.91	+25.89			
358,20	259.08	Dow Jones Utilities	345.38	+2.47	+.72	+3.11	+26.16			
7.317.79	6.211.33	NYSE Composite	7,243,28	+32.11	+.45	09	+8.59			
1,505,26	1.150.74	Amex Index	1,497,89	+8.35	+.56	+4.43	+20.79			
2,191,60	1,750,82	Nasdao Composite	2.031.25	+.93	+.05	-6.63	+.41			
1,217,90	1.060.72	S&P 500	1,190,80	+6,64	+.56	-1.74	+4.12			
668.18	548.29	S&P MidCap	654,25	+3.63	+.56	-1.37	+10.11			
656.11	515.90	Russell 2000	620.54	+2.61	+.42	-4.76	+7.17			
12,024.36	10,268.52	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,725.35	+60.58	+.52	-2.05	+5.31			
	NYSE AN				Nas	DAQ				
Magar A		Moor Acre		Man		- /61 -				

	NYS	Ε			Аме	X		NASDAQ				
Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	
Pfizer Lucent GenElec NortelN If ExxonMbl Citigrp AMD Masco WalMart QwestCm	392310 220827 194759 185726 184797 165452 154074 138038 135786 134259	26.31 3.19 35.27 2.94 59.42 48.38 16.60 33.07 51.60 4.05	28 08 +.04 +1.17 +.43 40 -3.36 40 +.11	SPDR SemiHTr SP Fncl iShRs2000 iShJapan GreyWolf CanArgo n DIIA Diam SP Engy MadCatz (62875 32495	119.45 33.06 29.62 123.83 10.55 6.23 1.83 106.83 42.28 1.53	+.85 23 +.27 +.73 88 +.11 +.19 +.77 +.53 +.16	Nasd100Tr Intel Microsoft Cisco JDS Uniph Oracle SunMicro CienaCp Yahoo s Novell	931142 907935 783323 585875 565360 405499 394553 385708 342456 334589	36.94 23.31 25.20 17.28 1.91 12.95 4.15 2.40 32.12 5.62	+.05 45 03 03 +.06 +.29 +.08 35 67	

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Alliant Technosystem		16	68.28	31	+4.4
Armor Holdings		16	39.74	+.19	-15.5
Boeing	1.00	23	52.72	+.57	+1.8
Computer Sciences		15	44.93	07	-20.3
Engineered Sup Sys	.07	19	53.96	38	-8.9
General Dynamics	1.44	17	103.04	-1.11	-1.5
General Electric	.88	22	35.27	08	-3.4
Halliburton	.50		43.10	+.97	+9.8
Harris Corp.	.48	27	64.51	06	+4.4
Allied Signal	.83	22	37.38	+.11	+5.6
L-3 Communications	.50	21	70.82	10	-3.3
Lockheed Martin	1.00	21	58.55	12	+5.4
NorthrpG s	.92	17	52.17	+.09	-4.0
Raytheon	.80	41	38.25	+.32	-1.5
Rockwell Intl.	.66	23	58.91	+.16	+18.9
Sequa Corp.		34	55.70	-1.00	-8.9
Texas Instruments	1.40	24	25.47	10	+3.5
Textron Inc.		30	76.64	+.14	+3.8
United Technologies	1.76	18	99.75	+1.11	-3.5
United Technologies	1.76	18	99.75	+1.11	



Euro costs (Feb. x)..... Dollar buys (Feb. 24) . British pound (Feb. 24 Bahrain (Dina British Israel (Shekel) ... Japan (Yen) Kuwait (Dinar) ... Norway (Krone) Philippines (Pes Saudi Arabia (Ri Saudi Arabia (Biya) 1.175 South Korea (Wor) 1.003.5 In Turkey (New Line) 1.003.5 In Turkey (Wor) 1.003.5 In Tur

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

3-month bill 30-year bond Sources: The Associated Press, Bank

Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Best time to use gift cards

NEW YORK - Americans spent an estimated \$20 billion on gift cards during the 2004 holiday season, reports the International Council of Shopping Cen-

Most people begin redeeming their gift cards soon after the holidays, but many wait until that ideal purchase comes along. If you've still got holiday gift cards, now's the time to use them - before the assorted hidden fees kick in

Did you know that a \$50 gift card might no longer be at full value, even though you haven't spent a dime? Here are some of the little-known, yet common gift-card pitfalls:

■ Balance/maintenance fees. A small percentage of your remaining balance will be deducted every month after the card isn't used within a set period of

Expiration dates Some are

as short as a year. ■ Dormancy fees. These kick in if the card isn't used within a set period of time - usually between six months and a year. The fee can be as high a \$2 per

month Limits on cash back. If you redeem your gift certificate for merchandise valued at less than the gift certificate's value, vou may get cash back for the remainder. Other gift cards don't offer cash back, even if the re-

mainder is a few pennies.

If you're not sure what restrictions are on your gift card, there are two ways to check. Many gift cards include rules and restrictions in fine print either on the card or its packaging. Or you might call or visit the store and ask a company representative for the details.

SATURDAY EVENING / FEBRUARY 26, 2005

MOVIES • SPORTS

0,		IDAI EV	LINING	LDNC	Ani 20	, 2003					MO	VIES	• SPORTS	
	J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	
6	AFN-P	Headline News	•ESPNews	According to Jim Jim thinks Gracie is lying. (CC)	Half & Half "The Big Type Cast Episode" Dee Dee's adventurous date.	Wife Swap "Harris/ ent Oklahoma wife lives with a working (CC)	Van Noy" An obedi- and mother swaps mother from Texas.	Law & Order "The I The ex-wife of a fire of murder. (CC)	Law & Order "The Dead Wives' Club" The ex-wife of a fireflighter is suspected of murder. (CC) Saturday Night Live			re (CC)	•	
7	AFN-ATL	That's So Raven Raven gets a job.	Switched! "Jennifer and Anna"	Radio Free Roscoe	American Adven-	Access Hollywood	(CC)	•WWE Raw		According to Jim (CC)	Half & Half (CC)	Wife Swap 'Harris/	Van Noy" (CC)	
8	NEWS	Hardball With Chris		The O'Reilly Facto	r (CC)	Dateline NBC (CC))	CNN Saturday Mor	ning (CC)	Economy Watch Co economy; indicators	urrent state of the ; news.	CNN Saturday Mor	ning (CC)	
9	SPORTS	•(5:00) NASCAR R can Racing Wheels	acing Craftsman Tru 200. (Taped)	ck Series Ameri-	SportsCenter			NBA Basketball C house in Indianapoli		t Indiana Pacers. Fro		 SportsCenter 		
10	SPEC	What Not to Wear ' lacks style.	Kathy" A hairstylist	The Bachelorette (Tru Calling "Valent serial killer on St. V	alentine's Day. (CC)	Strong Medicine (C	,	Friends Monica buys expensive black boots. (CC)	Seinfeld Jerry's method of pleasing a woman. (CC)	The Real World (CC)	Punk'd	
	AFN-FAM	Fairly Oddparents (5:00) *** "Cheat	Rugrats First bike.		"he Movie" (2002, Co " (2000, Suspense)			ns" (2000, Adventure (:04) *x "Red Plan		American Idol (CC))	American Idol (CC *** "Fearless" (1		
14	AFN-MOV TMC	* * "Species" (199	5, Science Fiction) E	Ben Kingsley, Natash ad creature may dest	a Henstridge,	* * * "Starship Tro	opers" (1997, Scien	nce Fiction) Casper Vi le a vicious army of g	an Dien, Dina Mey-	(:15) ★% "Barb Wire		Pamela Anderson L hunter must choose s	ee, Temuera Morri-	
24	PBS	Nova "The Viking D land map offers pro- discovered the Ame	of that the Vikings	Antiques Roadsho pendale desk; Gibsi guerreotype of Edgi	on mandolin; da-	American Experie	uilt the Alaska High-	Slavery and the Ma The origins of slaver	aking of America "T ry in America; expan	he Downward Spiral; sion of slavery in the	Liberty in the Air' colonies. (CC)	Austin City Limits Griffin" Singers Dan Griffin. (CC)	"Damien Rice; Patty nien Rice and Patty	
25	SHOW			, Western) Sharon St r enters a deadly qui	one, Gene Hack- ck-draw competition.	* * % "Sucker Free Mackie. Premiere. T (CC)	City" (2004, Drama) he lives of three you) Ben Crowley, Ken L ng men intersect in S		* * * "Barbershop Ice Cube, Anthony A selling his establish	2: Back in Busines Anderson. A barbersl ment. 'PG-13' (CC)	ss" (2004, Comedy) hop owner considers	(:45) * * 5 "Dark Blue" (2002) 'R' (CC)	
27	A&E	tiary in Auburn, N.Y.	burn" State Peniten- (CC)	City Confidential " curity" A pastor is a elderly couple. (CC)	ccused of killing an	is killed by a sniper	tucky football player . (CC)	Cold Case Files "Tr Bathtub Killer" A kill crime to prison cellr	er boasts of his	MI-5 "Persephone" / turns into a nightma	A routine operation ire. (N) (CC)	vanishes after she i suspect. (CC)	'Vanished" A woman s spotted talking to a	
28	DISC	To Be Announced		Storm Warning!		Anatomy of Disasi	ter	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Junkyard Wars (Co	0)	
29	TFC	TV Patrol (In Taga- log)	Magandang Gabi,	Bayan	Home Along the Airport	(:15) Kontrobersya	ıl	News	Mtb, Ang Saya Say	a	(:45) Ek Channel			
30	CNN-I	Lou Dobbs Tonight		People in the New Berry' Tom Hanks.	"Tom Hanks; Halle	CNN Presents *Imp Pizzeria suicide bor	pact of Terror" Sbarro mbing.	CNN Saturday Mor	ning		House Call With Dr. Sanjay Gupta	CNN Saturday Morning (CC)	Open House (CC)	
31	GOLF	Playing Lessons From the Pros		Golf Central	Profiles of a Pro Beth Daniel.	•LPGA Golf SBS (Open at Turtle Bay				Golf Central	PGA Golf: Nationwide Tour Ne Zealand PGA Championship		
32	TLC	ing room, bedroom, kitchen is redecorati	iami: West 18" A din- living room or a ed. (N)	Town Haul 'Village	Hall' (N)	Moving Up "Blase Rage" A family mov room apartment to	Moving Up "Blase Beige and Gothic Rage" A family moves from a one-bed- room apartment to a bland home. Trading Spaces "Miamic West 18" A di ing room, bedroom, living room or a kitchen is redecorated.			Town Haul 'Village	Hall'	What Not to Wear "Shannon" Colorful wardrobe. (CC)		
34	TOON		He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	Toon-O-Scope "Professor Utoni- um"	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends	den diamond mine.			Evil Con Carne	What's New Scoo- by-Doo?		
35	ANPL	(5:00) Dog Show "A nines compete. From	AKC Eukanuba Natio n Tampa, Fla. (CC)	nal Championship" N	fore than 3,000 ca-	Dog Show "AKC E	ukanuba National Ch	ampionship" More the	an 3,000 canines cor	npete. From Tampa, i	Fla. (OC)	King of the Jungle Three competitors are poached, but one returns to camp.		
36	сом	Jeff Foxworthy: To The comic makes of (CC)	tally Committed bservations on life.	**: "Blue Collar (Jeff Foxworthy, Bill I	Comedy Tour: The M Engvall and others. (C	lovie" (2003, Comer CC)	dy) Performances by	Ron White: They Co talks about bouncer	all Me Tater Salad C s and his ex-wife. (O	Comic Ron White C)	South Park Camp- ing amid an erupt- ing volcano. (CC)	South Park Ned and Jimbo host a hunting show.	Blake Clark (CC)	
40	NGC-A	Snake Paradise Bo es Israel in pursuit o snakes.	if rare and deadly	Toyota World of Wildlife	Insects From Hell "Invaders" Giant scorpions.	-		Bear' Observing pol	lick's Quest "In Search of the Polar ear" Observing polar bears. Legends of the Ice Worlds P desert.			Built for the Kill 'R jungles are home to all shapes and size	killers and prey of s.	
42	SPIKE	(5:00) *x "Soldier venture) Michael Du	dikoff. (CC)	World's Most Ama		 WWE Velocity So Chavo Guerrero fro 	m Tokyo. (N) (CC)	World's Wildest Po		Trivia (N)	Blind Date (CC)	World's Most Ama		
43	FOX	•(5:00) NASCAR R Series Budweiser (CC)	Shootout. (Live)	The Simpsons Homer suffers from depression.	Seinfeld Gang searches for dinner party gift. (CC)	That '70s Show Eric out with Hyde and friend. (CC)	That '70s Show A birthday party for Hyde. (CC)	The X-Files 'Ascen: attempt to rescue S sues the fugitive Du	cully, Mulder pur- ane Barry.	News	Fox Rox	Mad TV Debra Wils 'The Phantom of th break beach party.	e Oprah"; a spring	
44	BET	College Hill	Access Granted "T.I." T.I.	Soul Food "The Ro family sees red. (CC	ot" Store profits,	* * "Caught Up" (Lindsey. An ex-con	1998, Drama) Bokee struggles to rehabilita	m Woodbine, Cynda ' ate his life.	Williams, Joseph	Club Comic View		 Maad Sports Ed Reed. 	College Hill	
46	COURT	I, Detective Heiress killed in car crash.	I, Detective "After Hours" Band's lead singer killed.	Cops Investigation of a street fight. (CC)	Cops Tracking a counterfeiting sus- pect. (CC)	Forensic Files "Cloak of Deceit"	Forensic Files Family's health mystery.	Psychic Detec- tives Searching for a lost boy.	Body of Evidence: From the Case Files	The Investigators " Gang" Bank robbers	The Trenchcoat 3.	Hollywood Heat	Hollywood Justice	
48	STR-WLD	Roswell (CC)		Dark Angel (CC)		TNA Wrestling		World's Worst Driv Tape 3 (CC)	-	Hunter (CC)	Cops (CC)	The Kumars at No. 42	Goodness Gra- cious Me (CC)	
50	LIFE	"More Sex & the S Chelsea Hobbs. Her	ingle Mom" (2005, I ex-lover's return thr	Orama) Gail O'Grady ows a woman's life in	, Grant Show, to turmoil. (CC)	Strong Medicine " to the hospital after tume catches fire. (Graff' A girl is rushed her Halloween cos- CC)	*** "True Roman Hopper. Young lover	s hit the road with a	Christian Slater, Patri suitcase full of cocair	cia Arquette, Dennis ne. (CC)	Paid Program	Paid Program	
51	ABCFAM	(5:00) *x "Hope Fl mance) Sandra Bull Jr., Gena Rowlands	ock, Harry Connick	Whose Line Is It Anyway? Weird newscasters. (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? "Let's Make a Date."	America's Funni- est Home Videos Funny signs. (CC)	America's Funni- est Home Videos Candy thief. (CC)	est Home Videos	America's Funni- est Home Videos Animals. (CC)	Goldin Sports		Paid Program	Paid Program	
53	HIST	* * "Midway" (19 a Pacific island. (CC	76, Drama) Charlton	Heston, Henry Fond	a, James Coburn. Ja	panese and America	in forces battle over	Save Our History " Rights" The Civil Rig	Voices of Civil ohts movement. (CC)	**» "Midway" (19 Japanese and Amer	76, Drama) Charlton rican forces battle ov	Heston, Henry Fond er a Pacific island. (C	a, James Coburn. (C)	
57	STR-MV	(5:30) ***: "Far I (2002, Drama) Julia Quaid, Dennis Hays	nne Moore, Dennis	(:15) * * "Bringing Latifah, Eugene Lev	Down the House" ry. A brassy ex-con ge	(2003, Comedy) Ste ets an uptight attorne	ve Martin, Queen ey to clear her name.	Zellweger, Ewan Mo	ove" (2003, Roman Gregor, Sarah Pauls Il on a feminist write	on. A womanizing	(:45) *x "Swimfan Christensen, Shiri A tryst with a new clar	" (2002, Suspense) of Appleby. A teenager le ssmate.	lesse Bradford, Erika earns to regret his	
58	ADV 1	(5:30) Nalt: The Hand of Fatima	Into the Unknown "Desert Kayaking"	Next Wave Islands might be slowly sinking.	•X Power		Game for It	Nalt: The Hand of F take on Nain de Fat rock tower at the Sa	ima, an 850-meter	Into the Unknown "Desert Kayaking"	Adventure Challe	enge	Natural Passion	
59	мту	Valentine's Day Mo ments	st Romantic Mo-	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	The Ashlee Simp- son Show		The Ashlee Simp- son Show	Room Raiders	Room Raiders	Room Raiders	Room Raiders	
60	NICK	Nicktoons TV	Nicktoons TV	Nicktoons TV	Nicktoons TV	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide Bully.	Drake & Josh The boys get a dune buggy. (CC)	All That Singer Nick Lachey. (CC)	The Amanda Show (CC)	Full House Jesse becomes a reluc- tant model. (CC)	Full House Stephanie goes to a slumber party.	The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Will's in love. (CC)	The Cosby Show Cliff's storied aunt visits. (CC)	

JAPAN TV

Morning 10:30 Japan Pro Ball: Exhibition Game Pre-view (4) Afternoon 1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan: Noh & Kyogen

1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan: Noh & Kyogen (3)
1:30 Soccer: 2005 Zerox Super Cup — Yokohama F. Marinos vs. Tokyo Verdy (4)
3:50 Japan Pro Ball: Exhibition Game — Yomiur Glants vs. Rakuten Golden Eagles (4)
4:30 Between the Lions (3)

Evening 6:00 Special Olympics (3) 7:00 News (1)

7:00 Swiss-German-Austrian Movie (1999): Beresina: Oder die Letzten Tage der Sch-

Beresina: Oder die Letzten Tage der Sch-weiz (1:30(42) 12:45 E.R. VIII (1) 1:40 NBA Magazine (1) 2:10 U.S. Movie (1980): Altered State (1:43)(6)

2:25 U.S. Movie (1991): V.I. Warshawski 7:10 NBA: Detroit Pistons vs. Los Angeles Lak-ers (1:25)(10) 2:50 2005 Yokohama Indoor Open Games (4) 3:20 Classical Music: Opera (3)

JAPAN TV-BS7

Morning
6:10 PGA Golf: WGC-Accenture Match Play
Championship – 2nd Round
8:10 World News Hour
9:10 World News Hour

10:10 World Reports (r) 11:10 X-Games 2004 11:50 CNN News

Afternoon
2:03 JBL: Men's Basketball: Aisin Sea Horses
vs. Toyota Alvark
4:10 History of FIFA
4:40 Football Mundial
5:10 Trampoline World Cup 2004 in Alger:
Final

ers 9:10 CNN Sworld Nordic Skiling Champion-ship: Jump – Large Hill 2:10 2005 World Nordic Skiling Champion-ship: Women's Cross-Country (30K) 3:10 What's On Asia 3:58 World Amazing Sports 4:10 What's On Japan

5:10 X-Games 2004 5:40 Football Mundial

wowow

Morning 8:00 TV Series: Dawson's Creek 9:00 TV Series: CSt: Crime Scene Investiga-tion – Miami2 10:30 U.S. Movile (1996): When We Were Kings (130) Afternoon 12:00 U.S. Movile (1974): The Towering Infer-no (2:50)

2:50 U.S. Movie (1990): Dick Tracy (1:50) 4:40 U.S. Movie (1996): Sling Blade (2:17)

4:40 U.S. Movie (1990): Simy practice (227)

Evening
8:00 U.S. Movie (2003): Daddy Day Care (1:40)
10:10 U.S. Movie (2003): What a Girl Wants
(1:50)
12:00 TV Series: Friends the Final No. 232 12:00 TV Series: Friends the Final No. 232 12:30 TV Series: Sex and the City 2:10 French Movie (1998): Swapping for the Truth (1:14) 3:40 U.S. Movie (2002): Unfaithful (2:08) 5:55 Spanish Soccer Liga Española

Morning 6:00 Wake Up

8:00 Classic '90s 9:00 Japan Chart Top 30

MTV

oad Chart Top 10

Afternoon 12:00 Music Down 1:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda

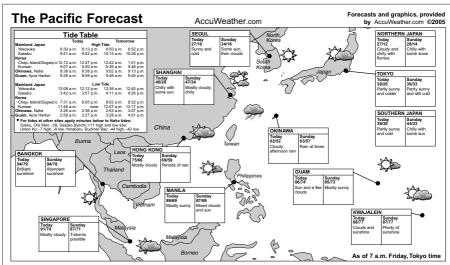
3:00 Pimp My Ride 3:30 Faking the Video: First Shoot 4:00 On-Air Chart Top 30 **Evening** 7:00 Consensus: 50 Cent

7:00 Consensus: 50 Cent 7:30 Screen 8:00 SONICMANIA 2005 Express 10:00 Screen Music Video Selectio 10:30 Winter Style in Kandatsu 11:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super Dry 1:00 Pimp My Ride 1:30 Check the Rhyme 2:00 Faking the Video: First Shoot 2:30 Rock On

3:00 Fresh 3:30 After Hours

JAPAN TV-BS11

1:10 U.S. Movie (1958): Separate Tables (1:41)



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO sunshine,

high 43, low 33

Monday: Partly sunny. high 47, low 33. Tuesday: Periods of clouds and high 68, low 58.

KADENA Monday: Showers Tuesday: Showers high 69, low 58.

SEOUL Monday: Partly sunny.

high 39, low 23. Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 38, low 21.

MANILA Monday: Partly sunny.

high 89, low 70, Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 69.

high 88, low 75

Monday: Partly sunny. high 86. low 74. Tuesday: Partly sunny,

HAGATNA

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	42/29	Los Angeles	67/50
Amarillo	51/30	Little Rock	47/32
Anchorage	34/24	Louisville	38/28
Asheville	47/28	Miami	82/67
Baltimore	32/24	Milwaukee	32/21
Birmingham	60/35	Nashville	46/28
Bismarck	43/17	New York	29/24
Boise	53/30	Omaha	42/28
Boston	27/18	Orlando	81/60
Brownsville	79/58	Philadelphia	32/24
Buffalo	24/16	Phoenix	64/48
Burlington	21/5	Pittsburgh	30/18
Charleston, S	C 72/45	Portland, OR	62/35
Charlotte	46/33	Portland, ME	26/14
Cleveland	28/16	Salt Lake City	50/28
Columbus, Ol-	1 32/19	St. Louis	43/33
Duluth	27/11	San Antonio	60/46
El Paso	52/33	San Diego	64/53
Hartford	27/18	San Juan	82/70
Helena	47/18	Tampa	79/60
Indianapolis	38/26	Tulsa	51/32
Jacksonville	79/58	Washington, D	C 32/24
Kansas City	47/29	Wichita	50/31



U.S. Extended Forecast A weak low pressure center will

bring a bit of snow to New York and New England on Saturday. At the same time, flurries will occur downwind of the Great Lakes. The rest of the Northeast will enjoy a dry day under some sun. The dry weather will stretch into the Southeast; however, a frontal boundary will trigger showers in parts of Florida. A developing storm system will bring some rain to western and southern portions of Texas; plenty of sun will shine over the rest of the Plains. Spotty rain and mountain snow showers will once again occur over New Mexico and Arizona and extend into western Colorado. The West Coast will remain dry, but rain may plague Southern California on Monday.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

Saturday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	94/79	lwakuni	38/28	Sasebo NB	38/32	Acapulco	87/70	Budapest	37/26	Kabul	48/27	Nairobi	91/58
Beijing	41/25	Kadena AB	62/52	Sapporo	27/12	Athens	63/53	Buenos Aires	81/64	Kiev	32/26	New Delhi	77/48
Camp Casey	29/16	Kunsan AB	30/23	Seoul	27/16	Auckland	71/60	Cairo	79/57	Kuwait	72/53	Oslo	25/9
Christchurch	72/56	Kwajalein	88/77	Shanghai	46/28	Baghdad	74/50	Cancun	80/64	London	41/32	Paris	32/30
Diego Garcia	86/79	Manila	89/69	Singapore	91/74	Barbados	88/70	Cape Town	79/60	Madrid	43/30	Rio de Janeiro	82/72
Hagatna	86/74	Misawa AB	28/12	Sydney	85/63	Barcelona	49/37	Geneva	32/22	Mexico City	64/46	Rome	51/33
Hanoi	85/73	Osan	29/18	Taegu	36/25	Berlin	26/12	Istanbul	53/42	Montreal	19/6	St. Petersburg	18/5
Hong Kong	75/66	Perth	86/60	Taipei	64/53	Bermuda	63/51	Jerusalem	64/48	Mogadishu	93/79	Stockholm	23/15
Honolulu	80/65	Pusan	35/26	Tokyo	39/26	Brussels	33/18	Johannesburg	77/56	Moscow	18/6	Warsaw	29/11



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STARS STRIPES.

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Man gunned down

CA SACRAMENTO — A 23-year-old man was gunned down in broad day-light while sitting in his car at a busy intersection Sunday in what a sheriff's spokesman called an "execution"

Sacramento County sheriff's investigators are looking for possible links to several recent gang-related

shootings, Sgt. R.L. Davis said.
Authorities said two men got out
of a silver 1997 Toyota Camry,
went around a bus filled with 16
children from a church and fired
up to 18 rounds into Pra Vang's

car.
Witnesses told authorities the assailants, described as Asian men wearing red and black clothing, fled in the Toyota, which was carry-

ing two other passengers.

Vang died at the scene, Davis said. No one else was injured, and no other vehicle was hit, Davis said.

Coffee Pot dilemma

PA BEDFORD — The owners of a coffeepot-shaped luncheonette are hoping someone perks up and figures out a new use for the historic structure.

About a 18 months ago, a former owner donated the 1927-era Koontz Coffee Pot to the Bedford County Fair Board. The board moved the notable building to the front entrance of its fairgrounds and spent thousands of dollars to reprovate it.

But now, the board isn't sure what to do with it.

"We're just letting it be known that if people have suggestions, we're open to them," said board president John Holbert.

Until 2003, the Coffee Pot sat on U.S. Route 30 — one of America's first highways, also known as the Lincoln Highway, Bert Koontz, a local businessman, built the structure as a novelty luncheonette designed to draw customers to the service station next door.

Some have suggested using it for a hot dog stand, a retail shop or an art gallery.

Olga Herbert, the director of the

Olga Herbert, the director of the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor, thinks the Coffee Pot would be a great place to sell coffee cups

Fleet converting fuel

TM CHATTANOOGA—All diecity-owned fleet will begin using biodiesel next week in an effort to improve air quality. Regular diesel fuel is mixed with animal fats and vegetable oils to produce biodiesel. State officials already agreed to reduce interstate highway speed limits in Hamilton County to lessen pollutants from diesel engines.

Pella opening new plant

MACOMB—Pella Corp., an inowa-based window and door maker, said it will build a manufacturing plant in Macomb, creating 480 jobs. Up to \$7 million in state grants and tax incentives will help launch the 275,000-square-foot factory that's scheduled to open in March 2006. Pella will produce a new line of historic-looking windows at the plant.

Student guilty of murder

TX EDINBURG — A
17-year-old has pleaded
guilty to stabbing to death a fellow



student as they waited for their parents to pick them up from an after-hours school event last March.

Jason C. Gonzalez pleaded guilty Tuesday to stabbing 15-year-old Lianna Nicole Olmeda 15 times outside Pharr-San Juan-Alamo North High School after a drama competition on March 29, 2004.

Gonzalez was to stand trial for Olmeda's death, but because of his guilty plea, a jury will determine Gonzalez's punishment. The jury will hear testimony from police officers, teachers, witnesses and family members.

Gonzalez is being tried as a minor because he was 16 at the time of the murder.

Prosecuting Assistant District Attorney Juan Villescas asked jurors to give Gonzalez the maximum of 40 years in prison.

Defense attorney Eddy Trevino told jurors Gonzalez suffered mental problems since age 12, including attention deficit hyperactive disorder and depression. After the slaying, Gonzalez was diagnosed with Aspergers syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism.

Shellfish harvest ban on

VA GLOUCESTER — A state ban on shellfish harvesting from six tributaries of the Severn River was set to begin Tuesday, following the discovery of high levels of bacteria from human or animal

The state ordered the ban last



Back to best friends
Spc. Amy Egbert of Grand Forks,
N.D., and the 141st Engineer
Combat Battalion, is reunited with
her dog, Angel, at Hector
International Airport in Fargo, N.D.
Egbert and her husband, Sgt.
Dallas Exbert, both returned to

North Dakota after serving in Iraq.

month for Whitaker,
Free School and Sterling creeks, as well as
their tributaries on the
Severn's northwest
branch. On the Severn's
southwest branch, Willetts Creek, Rowes Creek,
Holly Bush Creek and
their tributaries were also
made off-limits to shellfish
harvesting.

Recent water samples from those tributaries showed excessive levels of fecal coliform, and eating shellfish from the waterways could lead to illness, state officials said.

Commercial fishermen don't work on those tributaries. But Tim Fearington, field director of the Virginia Division of Shellfish Sanitation's Norfolk office, said homeowners on the affected waterways had been advised not to harvest and eat shellfish.

Some people might have piers or docks in the creeks and use traps to grow oysters, he said.

The condemnations follow a Division of Shellfish Sanitation survey of 906 properties in the Severn watershed from February 2004 to April 2005 that identified 82 potential sources of pollutants.

The sources include livestock with direct access to creeks and ditches, homeowners with septic systems leaking effluent and washing machines that drain directly onto the ground or into ditches.

Bill would ban trap

RI PROVIDENCE — Legislation has been introduced that would ban a type of animal trap in Rhode Island.

Currently, the leghold, steel-jawed trap can be used in the state, with a permit from the state Department of Environmental Management. The animal rights group Defenders of Animals wants to ban the traps, saying they main pets and other animals, and could be daneerous to small children.

Similar traps have been banned in 90 countries, according to the group.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Joseph Trillo, of Warwick, on Defenders of Animals' behalf.

No BO in the library!

CAN SANTA BARBARA County officials say people with body odor aren't welcome as library users. That means people who smell bad, including many homeless, can be denied service. Library Director Brian Reynolds said librarians will use their discretions.

Bill benefits vets

CHEYENNE — Gov. Dave Freudenthal signed a bill that will make it easier for veterans to obtain an \$800 break on their property taxes. The previous law contained a list of wars and had to be updated after each conflict involving the U.S. military. The new law streamlines the process so that veterans are automatically eligible.

Officials using blogs

MINNEAPOLIS — Some elected and appointed officials are using Web logs to keep their constituents in the loop. The bloggers' topics range from redevelopment efforts to where a city manager was going on a winter getaway. Scott Neal, Eden Prairie city manager, says it's a way to reduce the disconnect between local government and its citizens.



Out for a swing Ten-year-old Allie Billiot plays on a tire swing in Bayou Black, La.



Big man in the yard Nick Sainato, of Morris Township, N.J., straightens out the nose on a large snowman. Sainato and three friends built the 15-foot-plus snowman on Sainato's front yard.



Careful, they'll all want some

Alvin Spanske, 10, feeds a bird on Detroit's Belle Isle during a visit to the park with his grandparents.



Happy schnauzer the air in Somers, Mont.

While walking his two miniato schnauzers along the north shore of Flathead Lake, Dave Handy watches one of the canines playfully leap into



Bad collision

Wavne County, Ind., sheriff's deputies investigate a fatal crash between a car and train near Hagerstown. The driver of the car. according to evewitness reports. went around the crossing gates and was pushed several hundred feet.



Andrew Orbin leads bigger farm tractors down old U.S. 231 on Small, but still in front their way to McCutcheon High School near Lafavette. Ind. The students from McCutcheon drove their tractors to the school for National FFA Week.

Museum may get boost

SC CHARLESTON

long-delayed black history museum could get a much-needed boost this week if the City Council approves spending \$250,000 to launch a national fund-raising campaign. The museum was first suggested by Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. five years ago. The original \$37 million price tag has increased to an estimated \$50 million, organizers sav.

Court cashes in

PA PHILADELPHIA — A 3-year-old program that allows police to impound the cars of traffic scofflaws has helped turn a once financially strapped court into a cash cow.

President Judge Francis E. Kelly of the Philadelphia Traffic Court said not enough money was coming in to cover the court's expenses in 1990, with \$56 million owed and more than 174,000 arrest warrants unserved.

Last year, the court collected \$23.1 million, nearly five times its \$4.8 million budget. Court officials expect to collect even more money this year

Law enforcement efforts were beefed up, but authorities credit 2002's Live Stop program for much of the turnaround. Under the program, police are allowed to seize cars stopped for traffic violations if the vehicle is unregistered or uninsured, or if the driver is not properly licensed.

The program has resulted in the impounding of 75,000 vehicles. Last year, 27,000 vehicles were

seized and nearly 15,000 released after the owners settled their outstanding tickets. About 45 percent of the fines col-

lected at the court go to the city, 55 percent to the state.

Nickel bingo now OK

OR KLAMATH FALLS — The folks who play bingo at the Klamath Basin Senior Citizen Center are no longer outlaws.

Five months ago, the Department of Justice contacted officials at the senior center after getting a complaint that bingo games were being played for cash

Nickels, to be exact,

The senior center has a gambling license for the higher-stakes bingo program. But the Golden Age Club, which has about 200 members, is separate from the senior center and has never had a gaming license for its nickel-hingo operation. The Klamath County Board of

Commissioners last week amended the county's social gaming ordinance to include bingo, to the relief of the seniors who learned they've been playing an illegal game for the last two decades.

"Have fun with your bingo without the bureaucracy," Commission-er Bill Brown told an audience of about 20 seniors who came to support changing the rule.

Students clean up

ANN ARBOR - Some University of Michigan students are cleaning up - in more ways than one.

They're getting cash payments

for keeping their dormitory rooms presentable and available for tours by prospective students and their parents

Eighteen students in nine residence halls are participating in the Michigan Campus Day tour program, according to Randi Johnson, the university's housing outreach coordinator.

The rules for Campus Day participants technically don't require a clean room. Participants do, however, have to be dressed and out of bed if they are home, and must let tour groups see their room from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Displays of anything illegal, offensive or banned — like hot plates are forbidden.

Sophomores Aaron Bennick and Eric Romain are receiving \$100 each this semester to participate.

Their room impressed Clark Iverson, 44, of Royal Oak, who was on the Friday tour with his 18-year-old son, Geoffrey, a high school senior who has been admitted to Michigan

"It's cleaner than a 15-year-old's room," Clark Iverson said

Banks hit by forgers

NC HIGH POINT — A group of forgers who bilked two High Point banks out of nearly \$125,000 on one day last month is suspected in similar schemes that area banks more than \$250,000 since December, Police say surveillance footage showed as many as 40 to 50 people cashed counterfeit payroll checks doctored to resemble those from a local business. The scenario has been reported in recent months at three banks in Thomasville and Davidson County.

Developer settles debts

PROVIDENCE - The developer who wants to buy the Westin Hotel in Providence will pay \$6.5 million to the state to settle debts left from the 1990s banking crisis. The deal with James Procaccianti was approved by a state committee. Both sides said the settlement is unrelated to the Procaccianti Group's \$95.5 million high bid for the Westin.

County goes after city

DETROIT - Wayne County officials want Hamtramck to refund nearly \$4 million in overpayments, a burden the struggling city says it can't afford. The county says it overpaid Hamtramck for 15 years as part of an agreement that compensates the city for revenue lost in connection with the county jail. The error was discovered after the county's longtime accounting director retired

Trust land package sinks PHOENIX — Efforts to

hammer out a package of state trust land changes to benefit education funding, preservation of open space and planned development have foundered at the Legislature, officials said. Arizona has 9.3 million acres of trust land, awarded by the federal government at statehood. It must be used to benefit public schools and institutions.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Vehicle article misleading

As I read the Feb. 15 article "Protecting U.S. troops, convoys with armor," I was surprised at how skewed the perception of vehicle armoring is.

The article claims that only 1 out of 4 ehicles has "hillbilly armor." I suppose vehicles has "hillbilly armor. this is possible if you count Abrams and Bradleys, but that is deceiving. The ques tion is: Of the vehicles that were originally unarmored, how many now have factory-manufactured armor kits and how many are "hillbilly" style?

As a convoy commander in the Sunni Triangle for a year now, I saw that maybe 1 out of 4 vehicles had factory-manufactured add-on armor, leaving three-quarters with "hillbilly armor." Of my transportation company's 75 vehicles, only our 11 Humvees had factory kits; that is 85 percent "hillbilly.

Don't get me wrong, that's better than when we got here, but a long way from where the article claims.

The article also discusses how armor is removed in Kuwait to be reused. In our outprocessing, only our door panels were salvageable, the rest was scrap. Why not leave the trucks here? We just got them right, after a year of trying.

The underlying issue is this: Army leadership has failed to learn. Since World War II, right through Vietnam, soldiers have used "hillbilly armor." There are even Army field manuals that address how to do it

Yet, for all of this, we never realize that there is a requirement for some level of protection on all pieces of military equip-

It isn't too hard to imagine that if you go to war in a vehicle, someone might try to blow it up or shoot you.

Yes, we are buying armor kits now, but every vehicle needs to be designed with this in mind. Will this generation of Army leadership really learn from this experience and change things?

Capt. T.L. Sharratt Forward Operating Base Speicher, Iraa

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editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity

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Short-sighted on SGLI?

After reading the "short comment" about the raise in the servicemembers' death gratuity and insurance payment plans ("Finan-cial responsibility first," letter, Feb. 15), I wonder how many operate under the same misconceptions.

Before woe is cried on the government's behalf, note that Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance is a group life insurance plan. While all pay into it, only some are paid. There is a substantial amount of money making ever more money for the insurance company that beneficiaries will never see. Note also that raising the servicemember's benefit will not come without raising the servicemember's premium.

The benefit, the letter writer concedes with some chagrin, will not originate with the government. It will come from the pockets of every paying servicemember, just as it does now

On the heels of an otherwise-friendly reminder to educate one's spouse of the death benefit came a not-so-friendly assumption that there are those for whom the death benefit outweighs the death, and a misguided belief about where that benefit comes from in the first place. Pity, the comment wasn't as short as the sight.

Diana Hartman Stuttgart, Germany

Remembering the 'Alamo'

With day and night mortar incoming attacks and a lot of action, the "Alamo" has been home for American soldiers assigned to train and advise the 303rd Iraqi National Guard.

The Alamo is a small compound inside Forward Operating Base Hawk, northwest of Baghdad

When Capt, Joseph Pace and the first noncommissioned officers and soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2-12 Cavalry — a total of 10 — arrived at this installation, there were no windows, doors, electricity, showers, protection fence, dining facility, furniture and other commodities

It was more than one year ago and I was part of it. We helped to install, repair and fix. We had the strong determination from the first day to defeat the enemy, defend and always protect the Alamo.

Without a post exchange, Internet cafe, gyms and entertainment, the Alamo was witness to the release of hundreds of prisoners of Abu Ghraib prison. We also saw recruitments of new police and Iraqi soldiers, international journalists, interpreters, rocket attacks, assistance to casualties, and the important development of Iraqi soldiers who learned and accomplished many missions.

To make proficient Iraqi soldiers who were not well-equipped, who had language barriers and who did not have an idea of what the chain of command or Uniform Code of Military Justice were, did not take a week. Did we get awards or rewards for the accomplished job? None. Safety and accomplished job? progress were more important.

We are now miles away from the Alamo. Besides leaving it in secure hands, we know that we did a very important mission and contributed to the reconstruction of Iraq. Staff Sgt. Walter Challapa

Camp Victory, Kuwait BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury Flashbacks









Mallard Fillmore

THIS JUST IN. "MAY BE NEW ANTHROPOLOGICAL A RESULT DATA SUGGEST THAT OF NATURES WOMEN'S BODY-FAT RATIO, AND DESIGN, to ENABLE LARGER THEM HIPS AND BUTTOCKS

By BRUCE TINSLEY

TO SIT FOR INTERMINABLE PERIODS WATCHING THE ACADEMY AWARDS THE NOMINEES FOR BEST PYGMY IN A DOCUMENTARY APE.

Looking at the news

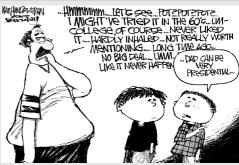
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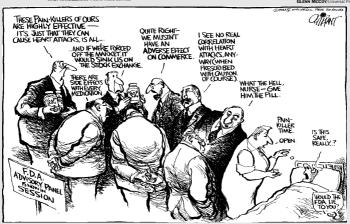
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J Horoscope

The mood of this Venus transit into Pisces is best summed up in the words of the David Gray song "Baby-Ion": "Let go your heart/Let go your head/And feel it **Holiday Mathis** now." Love is more than an emotion, action or word. It's a state of being that is best left unanalyzed, as something is always lost in the

translation. Instead of

"doing" love, try "being"

love TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 26). The sky is your limit this year. With so many options, your main challenge is to focus your energy in one direction. If you can do that, you're unstoppable. A new work environment is featured in March. Romantic likes and dislikes change allowing you to find love where you weren't finding it before. Love with a

Scorpio or Libra is a thrill. ARIES (March 21-April 19). Declarations of love and other promises are featured. You're skeptical of this but can be swaved if offered a little proof. As the comedian Steven Wright said, "All those who believe

in psychokinesis raise my hand." TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Feeling a little dull? Leave a window

of opportunity open for the love affair between you and yourself to rekindle. A Gemini or Aries helps find something fabulous and new about vou

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've got attitude in overdrive.

Friends would be jealous if they weren't so grateful to be part of your story. Continue to make it up as you go - it's working for you now.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Energy, vitality and sexiness can be yours now if you're willing to give up your role as the authority. Snap judgments you make about others will hurt you more than any judg-

ments they could make of you. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a corner of your world always on the verge of blowing up into a big

drama. Park your lawn chair, metaphorically of course, and watch the volcano action. When you think it's

over, it's just beginning. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You're a fearless dreamer, a provocateur and a rocker of boats. You're not saying things for shock value or doing things to upset the status quo, but you have

that effect anyhow. LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). An excited buzz centers on you. You're an important part of breaking news. The reaction you get makes you feel like a celebrity at least a temporary one.

Of course, there really is no other kind

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Look for breathtaking beauty. It's out there waiting to be found. When you're on a quest, you're so appealing that you'll attract positive attention. It's wonderful to get credit for just being you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A paradox: If there's one thing you're serious about, it's lightening things up. You're good at games playing them and inventing them. Do he careful when there are hearts hanging in the balance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). New projects get off to a sensa tional start, but you know better than anyone that finishing is what counts. Be the one who makes sure that everyone else is doing the job they say they'll do. This requires list

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're the happy cruise director,

pointing your people to the social hot spots, laving out the next fun activity. and making sure a good time is had by all. You're quite successful to this end

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're not like anyone - and that's clear in the way things go down today. There's no need to feel insecure, and there's really no reason to conform, Sometimes, mounting tension is a positive thing.

Bailey

Peanuts











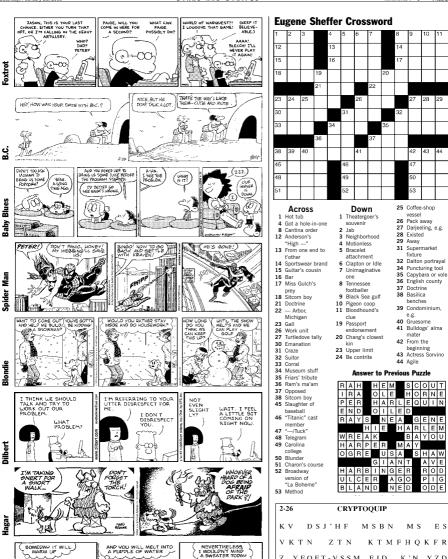












Z YFQFT-VSSM EJD, K'N YZD M 'Y Z M Z B B S H N F H! Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO SOME WAGGISH OPLE, PRESS CENSORSHIP MIGHT BE

PEOPLE, DESCRIBED AS WRITER'S CLAMP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals R

Let's get

Dear Abby

Find a good man where good men go

Dear Abby: I am a

27-year-old woman who would like to meet and date a man who respects women

Two years ago, my husband and I were divorced. Since then my dating experiences have been disappointing.

My friends and acquaintances all say that meeting men in a bar is not a good way to find someone with whom I could be happy. I agree, because most of the men I have met in bars never call after the first date. They are unemployed, recently separated, or drop me after a few dates

when I won't have sex I have contacted local parishes to find out about weekend retreats and charity functions, but dating men I met there didn't

bring any better results. I don't understand why dating is such a problem. I'm blonde, attractive and friendly. I work

and attend college full time. I am ambitious, a voracious reader and can carry on an intelligent conversation

Most men I've encountered seem happy to live at home with their parents and don't want to start a family of their

> I'm looking for someone who would take me to dinner and a movie and treat me like a lady. I don't mind staying home and watching movies sometimes but men today apparently want only casual sex -

not relationships. Unlike my girlfriends who are satisfied with bar-hopping

every weekend for male company ionship. I want to share my life with someone and have a family. I'm not asking for an instant marriage proposal, but I would like a meaningful relationship. Have you any suggestions?

Dear Discouraged: At the risk of sounding like a broken record. decent people can be found where decent people gather. Volunteer vour services at a library, a hospital, the mental health society, or anyplace that could use a helping hand. Join clubs focused on activities you enjoy such as hiking, reading, golfing, fishing, etc. Take square dance, ballroom, folk or line dance classes. Go to museums art exhibits and concerts. Join the chamber of commerce and attend its mixers; join a professional club, a gym or the YMCA Volunteer at a political campaign headquarters. The more ople who know you're interest ed in meeting someone, the greater your chances will be of finding Mr. Right.

Letters for this column - with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

one letter to each square,

VEGIN

to form four ordinary words

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WHAT THE DETEC TIVES DID WHEN THEY SPOTTED THE CREDIT CARD THIEVES.

form the surprise answer, as

suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's

Jumbles: TARDY Answer

ANKI F SEETHE DEVICE How the steamy soap opera star left the fans - IN A "LATHER"

Online proposal not a fairy tale

Dear Annie: I've been Annie's Mailbox dating "Tommy" for a little over a year, and he's just popped "The Ques-I've known for months that he was going to propose, because he began talking about kids and our own place and our future. I am in love with this man, and I want to say yes, but here's the problem: We communicate a lot via MSN Messenger, and that's how he asked

me. The technological age takes all the romance out of love. I imagined a dozen other pro posal scenarios, none of which

involved the Internet. Each one included Tommy down on one knee with a ring. Now I'm not sure how to re-

spond. I told two of my friends about the proposal. One wanted to tell him off; the other said I'm making too much of it and should respond the way my heart feels.

I don't need some elaborate scheme. I just want a sweet, down-on-one-knee-with-a-ring proposal.



idea what you want. We think Tommy proposed in this fash ion because he wasn't sure he could work up

the courage to do it in person. Reply, saving you will give him your answer when you can gaze romantically into his eyes. If you really need him to appear with a ring, you can add, "I can't wait to see the ring," although we're pretty certain he doesn't have one yet. We say, if you want to marry the guy, you should accept the proposal, regardless of how it's made. The

rest is just window-dressing. Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Afraid in Florida" the mom who worried about her 15-year-old son, "Mark," who

I'm a voung woman who con stantly receives cat-calls of "Hey, it's not Halloween!" and 'Where's the funeral?" I commend Mark for having the courage to dress how he chooses Even more. I applaud his mother

for accepting his choices However, she shouldn't worry so much about her son being beaten up or not getting a job From personal experience, I can tell her he probably receives little more than ridiculous comments from people too shallow to focus on the great person he is, and who see only his outward appearance. Since he's lucky enough to have good family support, those little barbs will do nothing but make him stronger.

- The Voice of Experience in Michigan

Dear Voice: Thanks for your words of encouragement. words of encouragement.
Annie's Malibox is written by Kathy
Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime
editors of the Ann Landers column.
Please e-mail your questions to
anniesmailbox/gocomeast.net, or write
to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Sync
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Family Circus



"I don't feel like watchin' television. Am I sick?"

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Yongsan DSN: 721-7140 Osan DSN: 784-4393 Taegu DSN: 768-7461 Pusan DSN: 763-3787

Autos for Sale - Okinawa Foster - 1995 Nissan Sunny -Am/Fm/CD Stereo, A/C, runs well, ready for immediate sell, JCI expires Oct 2005, \$800.00 please call 646-6430 or email kntlewis@oasis.mediatti.net

Gureney: 1992 Honda Accord Wagon, JCI due Mar 2006. Automatic,AC,PL,PW,PS. Tinted Windows. New tires and battery. \$1500.00 obo. Call 965-2065 or 622-9366 Courtney - 93 Blue Mitsubishi RVR, Minivan style, Runs Great, Extra COLD AC, New Pioneer CD player and Speakers. JCl is Foster - 1996 VW Jetta GT. Very hot car, all black with performance wheels and ground effects. Safety includes passen-ger and driver airbags and antilock brakes. JCI till 9-05. Power everything, Great stereo. Buns perfect and includes main-CD player and Speakers. JUI is good through Mar 2006. Asking \$2500.00 OBO. Call 622-6876 or email eddienme@oasis.medi-Runs perfect and includes main-tenance book. This is the ONLY car like this in Okinawa. \$4450 obo. Call 646-4369 or 090-6861-7332.

or email eddienme@casis.meca-atil.net for pictures
Foster - 1988 Nissan RZ1 - 5
Speed manual, power windows,
AC, JCI good to Sept 05, Good
tires, good inexpensive trans-portation. Available on 22 Feb.
\$300 Call 645-4011 Please
House message. 080-6861-7332.

Footer - 1997 Toyota Mark III

Footer - 1997 Toyota Mark II

Qualis Station Wagon - Clean
and Roomy. Power everything.
Cruise, 81 wheel, T.V. GPN
Navigation, CD. Keyless entry.
New Ires. JUI Sep 05

DWH or 936-9575 AWH. Can be seen in West Pac Inn Parking
lot. S300 Call 645-4011 Please leave message. Foster - 1992 Nissan Prairie (van), JCI until 06/06 dark blue, needs radiator installed. Have radiator, but no time. \$200.00 Call 646-6854.

152

Call 646-6854. Nissan Skyline RSR, JCI Jan O7, black 2 coro, auto, AMF-MCD/Tape deck, power widows, locks, and mirrors. 6 cylinder, 167 aftermarkers of the coro of the coro

Autos for Sale

- Okinawa

Foster - 1992 Nissan Skyline RSR, JCI Jan 07, black 2 door, auto, AMFM/CDI/Tape dock, power windows, locks, and mirrors. 6cylinder (RB 20) 16 in aftermarket rims, exhaust, quick. \$2,300.00 OBO. Available now Call David at 645-3476, 646-6289 or dmzeh5@oasis. mediatii net 646-6289 or dmzeh5@oasis. mediatti.net Foster - 1992 Toyota MR2, JCI 10/06, cold alc, red, 12 disc CD player, Excellent condition \$3200 OBO call 646-8765 Lv. Message.

Foster - 1993 Black Mitsubishi FOster - 1993 Black Mitsubishi FUR 3dt. Runs and looks great. All power and has a new JVC CD ptayer. JCI April 2006. \$2,600.00 OBO. Call 098 939-8074, 465-1033 or email bj-mark@s4.dion.ne.jp.

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Foster - 1994 Nissan Silvia:
Foster - 1994 Nissan Silvia:
Maroon/red, 83k, keyless entry,
CD, power windows, JCI until
Sep 2005, cold A/C, very
reliable car. Can see it at Chilis
Parking lot during the daytime.
Call 646-2001. \$2,500. OBO.

DSN: 645-2010

Autos for Sale - Okinawa

Patricer 1996 Micros Styller (adorsin 1992 Microshi CTD (adorsin 1992 Micro Hansen - 93 Toyota Windom,
Black, Power everything, Excellent Ruzning Condition, very
Clean, JCl until Jan GOY, New
Ties, Recore Tura-up, Pinorer
CD Player, S3,000. Call John
098-956-167 to 623-4235.

Kadena - 1992 Toyota Hiux

Foster - 93 Mitsubishi Delica Turbo Diesel 4X4: Cold Dual A/C. Seats 8. JCl until Feb 06. \$3900. Make an offer Great for families/camping/scuba, Call 646-3589 or email 6 4 6 - 3 5 8 9 or em a II richmondge Wayhoo.com

Foster - 95 Honda Clvic Hatchback - blue, Very clean, rurs great, cold AIC, 2door, automatic, Power steering & windows, tape, CD& AMPM radio. JCI due December 2006!! Asking \$2,000 GBO. Call #546-4374 or

Secretary of the Control of the Cont \$2,000 OBC. Call #646-4374 or e-mal sullygem@yahoo.
Foster - 98 Storia · 4-door, A/C.
locks. Fluir - God and very control of the control of t

The process of data bin 2006, grower windows many than 200 Medical pictures devesage (layaboc.com: Foster - Mass Est III 87 Toycla Cyros (squal) never had probe for the picture of the picture o

Kadena - 1991 Volks Wagon Golf GTI great condition, power window, power steering, auto-matic, cold A/C, tinted windows, new brakes 2 come. matic, cold A/C, tinted windows, new brakes, 2 new tires. Great Deal. \$2000 JCl till Oct 06. Call

Autos for Sale - Okinawa 152

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- Okinawa

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ED, 4 new tires, extra cold AC,
power everything, never had a
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for family or single person. JCI
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Under-carriage aluminum
shrouds, Mud Flaps, damper
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steering & windows, tape, CD&
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Asking \$3,000. OBO. Call
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Kadena - 94 Toyota Carina ED -JCI until Dec '06. Keyless entry, cold A/C, power windows, auto-matic, CD player 2000 or OBO. Call 633-0026 after 1700 or leave a messane

Call 633-0026 amer 1700 or leave a message. Kadena - 94 Toyota Lucida Van - JCI good til FEB 2007. Diesel, Auto, Dual AIC, AMFRMCD stereo, Sonar. Very clean. \$4,000 obo. Call 633-5759.

\$4,000 obb. Call 633-5759.

Kadena - 94 Troytat Lucida Van - JCI good until Feb 2007. Silver with tain interior. Automatic, Dual AIC, AMFMCD Stereo, Sonar Germant for new drivers), 8 obs. Call Don or Madeline at 633-5759 or 632-6449.

Kadena - Black 95 Skyline for sale \$3000 OBO. Please call 633-7710.

Autos for Sale

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- Okinawa Kadena - Honda Acura Legend black loaded, 1994 good JCI, new tires, loaded car must sell leaving, \$3,000 firm, 633-2446 o r e m a i l twistedspoke1 @yahoo.com

Kadena - Priced Lowered: 92 Missubishi Lancer 4 door, Grayi-green color, cold A/C. V-6 runs good, good tires, auto every-hing, AMFM CD player, JCI due Feb 06. \$1100 OBO email: koreapaul@hotmail.com or call 633-4475. Leave message.

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extras! Must see. Call Ryan
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Foster, Okinawa - Maternily Clothing - L.Y.L. - gap, old navy, motherhood - many liems were never wom, still have tags & tons of stuff - priced \$1.55 each, some of the items with sega attached will be more. E-mail myseamo

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622-8281.

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Foster, Okinawa - 1.8ghz 128meg video 258megs of ram DVD Burner 19° monito 60gigs HD Logitoch 4.1 speakers Wro-less KB and Mouse, XP and Office 2003. Wife says it has to go. First \$600 gets it. All Parts upgradeable. Call 646-5480.

or email gonzo4 to uses a most innet for pictures.

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Indider back style). Selling for Contact Tony at 646-2089 or omail campoarm@cki10.med navy.mll

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Kadena, Okinawa - Dark cherry wood dining table with 6 chairs bought from Foster furniture store for \$670.Will sale for \$400 OBO. Must see Call Travis 6 633-5519 or 090-6866-1726. Kadena, Okinawa - Esplanade bedroom set includes Sleigh bed Chest of Drawes, Night-stand and Dresser with mirror. Set sold in waterbed store for \$6500 selling for \$4000 obo also includes queen pillow top mat-tress. Call 633-2166 or e-mail snider 80 casis. mediatib.

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Kadena, Okinawa - Kitchen furniture for sale - Blond Oal rolling microwave cart for \$75. Blond Oak Bakers Rack with stainless steel top for \$175. Blond Oak kitchen bench for \$50. Call 633-1513 if interested. Kadena, Okinawa - Large Cedar Hope Chest for sale. It is in very

Kadena, Okinawa - Like New Hunter Green Leather Berkline Reclining Loveseats - Perfect for smaller living rooms; all 4 seats recline. Excellent Condition. Cost \$1000 EACH; will sell both for \$900. Email for pictures mskp @ casis.mediatts.net or 633-1293.

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Will 8t up to 23' screes plus
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Kadena, Okinawa - White metal bunk bed Twin on top and full on bottom. Great shape, mattress-es not included. Asking \$65. Call Kathy/Pat@633-8657.

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Yokota, Japan - Living Room set
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Sosa's powerful display wows Orioles

Slugger reports to camp; Red Sox put final touches on ring ceremony

Sammy Sosa introduced himself to his new Raltimore team. mates the best way he knew: with a power display.



baseballs over the center-field wall during his first workout with the Orioles in

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Wednesday Refore he was done nearly half the squad interrupted their drills to watch the show

"Sammy, we're going to run out of balls!" joked outfielder Larry Bigbie, who watched in awe as one shot after another soared onto an airfield behind the practice field.

The Chicago Cubs were relieved to get rid of Sosa after his troubled 2004 season, and the Orioles are delighted to have him.

During his stay in Chicago, Sosa battled with Mark McGwire in a memorable home run duel in 1998, went to the All-Star Game seven times and was the 1998 NL MVP. But he contends that the corked bat and his early departure from the ballpark ruined an otherwise wonderful relationship "For the 13 years I was in Chica-

go, I only made two mistakes. That's pretty good," he said. "If I had known that leaving early last year would have caused such a controversy, I would have never done it. My manager told me I had a day off. But what can I say? In Fort Myers, Fla., the Boston

Red Sox learned they will get their World Series rings at their home opener on April 11 before a sold-out Fenway Park crowd and the New York Yankees.

"I'm sure I'm not going to help them hand them out," Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter said to laughter at New York's camp in

Tamna "But they deserve it. I'm sure they've been looking forward to this for a long time. So let them do

Boston became the first major league team to overcome a 3-0 deficit in the playoffs, doing it against their biggest rival in the AL championship series last October. The Red Sox then swept St. Louis in the World Series

"This is the kind of quality problem I hope we're going to be able to have with some frequency," Red Sox President Larry Lucchi no said, "sit around at spring training and decide just when, of when, do we give out the World Series championship rings.

To accommodate fans who didn't get tickets to Opening Day. the rings will be displayed at a welcome-home dinner attended by players that same night and at a display on the Fenway Park field along with the World Series trophy and the ball Doug Mientkiewicz caught for the last out of



In his first workout with the Orioles, Sammy Sosa hit two dozen balls far over the center-field wall in Fort Lauderdale. Fla., on Wednesday.

"Even though the fans are not getting it, they have to feel like they're receiving one because they all deserve it," David Ortiz said. "They supported us a lot through the years

In Lakeland, Fla., Ugueth Urbina said he planned to report to spring training, even if his kidnapped mother still was being

He didn't want to show her can tors that he was weak. Now that Maura Villarreal is safe following a rescue operation Friday, Urbina said an indescribable weight has been lifted from his shoulders

"I feel like I'm 18 years old," the Detroit Tigers reliever said. speaking publicly about the ordeal for the first time.

Villarreal, 54, was rescued by Venezuelan police during an eight-hour raid that left two of her abductors dead, two captured and seven others as fugitives. Police described the kidnappers as Venezuelan and Colombian drug

smugglers She was held for 5 months, 18 days in a camp that police called a drug-traffickers' hideout in Venezuela's southern mountains

Urbina and his two brothers Ulmer and Ulises, were at a loss. "There wasn't much we could

do. We'd never been in this situation, and we didn't know where she was," Urbina said. "Where can you go to try to find her? She could be anywhere. It's hard.

In Winter Haven, Fla., Cleve land's Juan Gonzalez became the latest player to deny Jose Canseco's accusation of using steroids.

"It's not true. ... I never saw needles. I never saw pills. I never saw anything. ... The only guys who have put needles in my body are doctors," Gonzalez said

In Kissimmee, Fla., Atlanta shortstop Rafael Furcal hustled off the field, ignoring several television crews that wanted to speak with him. At his locker a few minutes later, he responded tersely to an interview request: "Are you going to ask me about baseball?

He spent 13 days in jail during the offseason and four weeks in an alcohol treatment center following his second conviction for drunken driving. The 26-year-old Furcal gave up alcohol after his latest arrest, but also said he doesn't believe he has a drinking problem.

"Just bad luck." he said.

In Scottsdale, Ariz., manager Felipe Alou said he thinks he'll probably be back with the San Francisco Giants for a fourth season in 2006.

His contract ends after this season and Alou turns 70 in May, but he has shown he still has enough energy to lead the Giants for 162 games. He also wants to manage his son, Moises, for another sea-

In Bradenton, Fla., Pittsburgh said catching prospect J.R. House underwent surgery to repair a torn labrum and torn rotator cuff in Birmingham, Ala., and

Dodgers closer Gagne injures knee

BY JOHN NADEL The Associated Press

VERO BEACH, Fla. - Los Angeles Dodgers closer Eric Gagne sprained a ligament in his left knee Thursday during the team's first full-squad workout of spring training, and will undergo an MRI exam. Gagne didn't seem particular-

ly concerned but trainer Stan Johnston said the 29-year-old right-hander probably will have his activity limited for about a week. Johnston said the injury needs about six weeks to fully

"Any time you hurt some-thing, it's usually going to take that long," Johnston said. "We want to do a precautionary MRI to see what the damage is. It was hard to examine him because he was apprehensive at times."

Johnston said Gagne heard a

pop when he was injured while playing pepper.

"It could just be an old piece of scar tissue," Johnston said, adding he wouldn't be able to say when Gagne would be able to pitch in an exhibition game until after the MRI exam.

"I turned around and a cleat got stuck," Gagne said. "I just twisted my knee a little bit. I'm not concerned. There's no swelling, and that's a really good sign."

Congressman urges MLB to testify about steroid use

WASHINGTON — A senior

House Democrat urged Thursday that Jose Canseco and others the former slugger accused of abusing steroids, including Mark McGwire, be called before Congress to testify on use of performance-enhancing drugs. Rep. Henry Waxman of Califor-

a, the top Democrat on the House Government Reform Committee, said representatives from Major League Baseball and the players' association should appear before the panel to explain how they plan to stop the use of drugs by baseball players.

Waxman made his request for

hearings to the chairman of the committee, Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va. There was no immediate re sponse from Davis' office.

In Canseco's book, Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits & How Baseball Got Big," he admits using steroids and alleges that McGwire often injected the drugs with him. He said he introduced steroids to former Teyas Rangers teammates Rafael Palmeiro, Juan Gonzalez and Ivan Rodriguez. All have publicly de nied Canseco's charges.

"Mr. Canseco insists his information is accurate," but Major League Baseball says it will not inSports

legations, Waxman said. Hearwith Canseco, McG-

wire and others "would be an opportunity to find out what really happened and to get to the bottom of this growing

NASCAR penalizes R. Gordon

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. Robby Gordon Motorsports was fined \$50,000 Wednesday and docked 25 championship points, the most severe penalty for violations at Daytona.

NASCAR fined crew chief Bob Temple and deducted points from car owner Jim Smith for an unapproved intake manifold on his Chevrolet on Feb. 11 during the initial Nextel Cup inspection for the season-opening Daytona 500.

Gordon, driver and part owner of the new team, failed to make the lineup for the Daytona 500 and has no points. Smith earned 31 based on qualifying results.

Sharapova advances in Qatar DOHA, Qatar — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova beat

Marion Bartoli of France 6-3, 6-2 in the Oatar Open on Thursday and reached her third semifinals in as many events this year.

STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

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12. DePaul (23-3) did not play. Next: vs

Marquette, Sunday. 13. Texas (18-7) beat Colorado 83-40. Next: 13. Texas (18-7) beat Colorado 83-40. Next.
 Nöklahoma, Saturday.
 14. Texas Tech (20-5) beat Oklahoma
 83-70. Next. vs. Oklahoma State, Saturday.
 15. Minnesota (20-6) did not play. Next. at Indiana, Thursday.
 16. Temple (22-3) did not play. Next. at Massachusetts, Thursday.

Massachusetts, Thursday.

17. Kansas State (19-6) beat Nebraska
94-69. Next: vs. Kansas, Saturday.
18. Georgia (20-7) did not play. Next: at
Florida, Thursday.
19. North Carolina State (19-6) did not play.

Next: at Wake Forest, Thursday, 20. Vanderbilt (19-6) did not play. Next: vs. nest, it and description of play, Next: vs. Alabama, Thursday, 21. lows State (20-5) beat Missouri 76-70. Next: vs. Feast 24, State (20-5) de not play, Next: at 22. for plate 16-70 did not play, Next: at 22. Maryland (18-7) did not play, Next: at 23. Maryland (18-7) did not play, Next: at 24. Boston College (17-8) did not play, 25. Goragag (24-2) did not play, Next: vs. portland, Saturday.

Wednesday's women's scores

Wednesday's women's score:
Basty Albany, N.Y., St., Story Brook, 60 de American International 7.1, Bentley 60, OT Armerican International 7.1, Bentley 60, OT Army 71, Cologate 69 de Army 72, Colombia Union 67, Cheyney 62, East Stroudsburg 77, Marsfield 63 Lallayette 68, May 58 de Maine 59, Boston U. 56 de Allayette 68, May 58 de Maine 59, Boston U. 56 de Allayette 68, May 58 de Maine 59, Boston U. 56 de Maine 59, Bosto

Millersville 54, Kutztown 40 Molloy 92, Mercy, N.Y. 74 Moravian 78, Widener 71 Northeastern 67, New Hampshire 61 Philadelphia 70, Concordia, N.Y. 56 Silppery Rock 64, Indiana, Pa. 59 Southampton 85, C.W. Post 64 St. Thomas Aquinas 67, Bridgeport 64 Vermont 69, UMBC 51

Augusta St. 67, S.C.-Aiken 64 Augusta St. 67, S.C.-Alken 64 Barry 67, Lynn 40 Florida Southern 82, St. Leo 74 Florida Tech 55, Rollins 42 Georgia College 78, Columbus St. 70 Lenoir-Rhyne 79, Newberry 72 Miles 64, Clark Atlanta 58 N.C.-Asheville 54, Winthrop 48 N.C.-Pembroke 63, Francis Marion 48 Northwestern St. 62, Nicholis St. 50 Northwestern St. 62, Nicholis St. 50

S.C.-Upstate 62, Lander 54 Tusculum 73, Presbyterian MIDWEST

Agument St. Toledo 60 Baylor 70, Kansas 60 Bowling Green 73, Marshall 62 Carleton 67, St. Mary's, Minn. 51 Case Reserve 81, Carnegie-Melic Culver-Stockton 65, Baker 61

Texas 83, Colorado 40
Texas 88, Colorado 40
Texas A&M 75, Oklahoma 5t, 61
Texas Tech 83, Oklahoma 70
Texas-San Antonio 82, Lamar 55
TOURNAMENT
Dakota Athletic Conferer

Jamestown 74, Black Hills St. 68
S. Dakota Tech 83, Valley City St. 55
Freedom Conference
Semifinals

rwich 47, Albertus Magnus 38
Great Northeast Athletic Confe
Quarterfinals

W. New England 63, St. Joseph Conn. 48 Great Plains Athletic Conference

DeSales 47, Kings, Pa. 41 Scranton 74, FDU-Florham 49 Great North Atlantic First Round

Dakota St. 67, Minot St. 55 E. Michigan 69, Cent. Michi E. Michigan 69, Cent. Michigan 53 Eureka 70, Benedictine III. 65, OT Evangel 61, Missouri Vallev 44

Aquinas 69, Concord

67

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Saturday

rts. 4 a.m.-Golf: Match Play Cham ionship, second and third round.

AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.-NBA: KIA NBA Shoot-

oung. **AFN-Sports, 10 a.m.**-NBA: Cleveland at Indi-AFN radio Okinawa, Korea, 10 a.m.-NBA: Denver at Memphis. AFN-Pacific/Korea, 12:30 p.m.-NBA: Minne-sota at Seattle. rts. 12:30 p.m.-NBA: Detroit at L.A.

Lakers.

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.-Auto racing: NASCAR
Craftsman Trucks American Racing Wheels
200 (dld). AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.-NBA: Cleveland at Indi-

Sunday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.-College basketball: ESPN College GameDay. AFN-Pacific/Korea, 2 a.m.-College basket-AFN-Pacific/Korea, 2 a.m.-College basket-ball: Providence at Syracuse, AFN-Sports, AFN radio Okinawa, Korea, 3 a.m.-College basketball: Missouri at Texas. AFN-Atlantic, 3:30 a.m.-College basketball: Kentucky at Alabama. AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.-Golf: Match Play Cham-pingship.

ionship. **AFN-Atlantic, 5:45 a.m.**-College basketball: onnecticut at Pittsburgh. Connecticut at Pittsburgh.

AFN radio Okinawa, Korea, 6 a.m.-College
basketball: Arizona at Washington.

AFN-Sports, 10 a.m.-College basketball:
ESPN College GameDay scoreboard.

AFN-Pacific/Korea, 10 a.m.-Lacrosse: Na-

APM-Pacific/Korea, 19 a.m.Lacrosse: he tonal Lacrosse League All-Star Game (did), APM-Sports, 11 a.m. College basketball: APM-Sports, 29 p.m. Acutor pacing: MASCAR APM-Sports, 29 p.m. Acutor racing: MASCAR Busen or and National Stater Bross, 300 (dis-counter Bross) and the sport of the sport of the Lacroside APM-Sports, 5 p.m. Acutor racing: MASCAR Sports, 9 p.m. Acutor racing: MASCAR Constitution of the sport of the sport of the sport of the APM-Sports, 9 p.m. Acutor racing: MASCAR APM-Sports, 9 p.m. College basketball: Ar-Northridge State at Pacific (did).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard me: dld indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change.

www.myafn.net for more information.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared AF mems 1 of D2 Tareton

Wednesday

1. Illinois (20 beat Northwesta)

Next No. P(260) Deat Northwesta 3.

A borth Carolin (2-3) did not play, Next

1 Maryland, Synday, 2.

1 Maryland, 2.

1 Maryland 8. Kansas (20-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 4 Oklahoma State, Sunday. 9. Arizona (23-4) did not play. Next: at Washington State, Thursday, 10. Michigan State (19-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 20 Wisconsin, Thursday. 11. Louisville (23-4) did not play. Next: at Memnhis, Saturday. Memphis, Saturday,
12. Gorzaga (21-4) did not play. Next: at Portland, Thursday,
13. Utah (23-4) did not play. Next: at Brigham Young, Saturday,
14. Washington (21-4) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Thursday. s. Arizona Sfate, Thursday. 15. Syracuse (23-5) beat St. John's 83-69. Jext: vs. Providence, Saturday. 16. Alabama (21-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 5 Kentucky, Saturday. 17. Connecticut (18-6) did not play. Next: at No. 18 Pittsburgh (18-6) lost to West Virginia 70-66. Next: vs. No. 17 Connecticut, Saturday 19. Pacific (22-2) did not play. Next: vs. Cal 18, Pacific (22-2) did not play, Next vs. Cal State Northridge, Saturday, 20, Wisconsin (17-6) did not play, Next: at No. 10 Michigan State, Thursday, 21, Charlotte (20-4) beat Mempinis 89-71, 21, Charlotte (20-4) beat Mempinis 89-72, 22, Oklahoma (20-6) did not play, Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday, 23, Villanova (18-6) beat No. 3 Boston Col-lege 76-70, Next: at Georgetown, Sunday, 18-20 oklahoma (20-6) did not play, Next: vs.

Marquette, Thursday. 25. Nevada (21-5) did not play. Next: at Fresno State, Saturday. Wednesday's men's scores

EAST Albright 81, Elizabethtown 65 American Ú. 65, Lehigh 61 Bentley 81, American International 53 C.W. Post 77, Southampton 67 Clarion 69, Edinboro 61 Ciarion 69, Edinboro 61 Colgate 66, Army 59 Drexel 78, George Mason 66 Duguesne 77, La Salle 77 Duquesne 77, Lã Salle 72 Fairleigh Dickinson 63, Cent. Conn. St. 58 Holy Cross 69, Bucknell 54 Holy Cross 69, Bucknell 54 Indiana, Pa. Jul, Slippery Rock 61 Kutztown 73, Millersville 56 Massachusetts 70, Rhode Island 64, OT Menlo 79, Holy Names 67 Navy 76, Lafayette 57 Philadelphia 82, Concordia, N.Y. 59 Pilt-Johnstown 71, Lock Haven 69, OT Providence 67, Seton Hall 54 Rutgers 83, Art-Monticello 74

East Carolian 7, Southern Miss. 65
Florida Se, Varieritie 16, ori
Florida 16, Varieritie 16, ori
September 16, ori
Missispio 15, 76, Georgia 62, ori
Carolian 16, Varieritie 16, September 16, ori
Carolian 16, Varieritie 16, September 16, ori
Carolian 16, Varieritie 16, September 16, ori
Carolian 16, Varieritie 16, Var lina 77. Southern Miss. 66

MINTERPORT Adrian 77, Olivet 65 Akron 55, Miami (Ohio) 49, OT Akron 55, Mlami (Ohio) 48, 0.T Albion 111, 71-State 88 Betharny, Kan. 73, McPherson 72 Bethel, Kan. 75, Southwestern, Kan. 74 Bradiley 77, Illinois St. 61, 52 Calvin 58, Kalamazon 67 Calvin 58, Kalamazon 67 Carringle-Mellon 87, Case Reserve 80 Central St., Ohio 67, Wilberforce 45 Detroit 68, Wis.-Green Bay 56 Emilius 78, Millikin 66 Findlay 60, Hillsdale 49 Friends 54, Tabor 52 Grand View 65, Jowa Weslyn 62 Hope 90, Alma 77 Ill.-Chicago 81, Wright St. 68 Illinois 84, Northwestern 48 Ind.-South Bend 69, St. Francis, III. 68 Kansas St. 80, Baylor 69 Kent St. 79, Cent. Michigan 55 Loyola of Chicago 67, Cleveland St. 63 Michigan 63, Penn St. 48 Minnesota 65. Inwa 27

Michigan 63, Penn St. 48 Minnesota 65, Iowa 57 Missouri Southern 84, Pittsburg St. 78 N. Illinois 72, Bowling Green 61 NW Missouri St. 58, Missouri Western 57 Ohio 68, E. Michigan 65

NYCCT 83, CCNY 69 Staten Island 79, Lehman 70 Commonwealth Confere First Round Lebanon Valley 74, Messiah 66

m Confer eSales 67, Wilkes 63 ings, Pa. 76, Scranton 70 Mascac

Semifinals
Framingham St. 446, Bridgester, Mass. 47
Salem St. 81, Wedgester, Mass. 47
Mid-Central Conference
Outsterfinals
Huntington 88, Bethel, Ind. 79
Wedgester, Mass. 40
Wedgester, M

Ramapo 51, Rutgers-Newark 46 Richard Stockton 79, Rowan 78 Ohio Conference Quarterfinals Baldwin-Wallace 78, Otter bein 76, 07 John Carroll 75, Wilmington, Ohio 67 Mount Union 95, Capital 74 Muskingum 81, Ohio Northern 63

AP Women's Top 25 fared

Wednesday . LSU (25-1) did not play. Next: at Arkansas, Thursday, 2. Duke (25-2) did not play. Next: vs. Miami, Thursday. 3. Stanford (24-2) did not play. Next: vs. Oregon, Thursday.
4. Ohio State (25-3) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Thursday.
5. Tennessee (21-4) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi State, Thursday.
6. Baylor (22-3) beat Kansas 70-60. Next: at Colorado, Saturday.

G. Michigan State (25-3) beat Michigan 77-34. Next' vs. TöA, Big Ten tournament, Friday, Macrók.

G. Michigan State (25-3) beat Michigan 77-34. Next' vs. TöA, Big Ten tournament, Friday, Macrók.

S. William, Thursday.

S. Ruth, J. S. William, S. S. Willia

TANK MCNAMARA

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وزيق والمراجع

To.

AT THE NR. SCOUTING COMBINE, WE TEST A PROSPECT'S MORALS, AS

WELL AS HIS PHYSICAL

ABILITY.

Concordia, Neb. 77, Northwes Doane 84, Sloux Falls 82 Hastings 76, Mount Marty 63 Morningside 72, Dordt 52 burgh, Friday. 10. Notre Dame (23-4) did not play. Next: vs. West Virginia, Saturday. 11. Connecticut (19-6) did not play. Next:

Morningside 72, Dordt 52

Massac
Semifinals
Fitchburg St. 53, Worcester St. 51
Wiac
Semifinals
Wis.-Oshkosh 74, Wis.-Stevens Pt. 67
Wis.-Stout 70, Wis.-Eau Claire 65, OT
EXHIBITION
Fresno St. 57, Utah Valley St. 36

OK, THE ONE THING TO REMEMBER

IT THIS TEST, GUYS, IS JUST BE HONEST.

C.

1/2 lb of

ABOU"

College baseball

Wednesday's scores

SOUTH ham 1. Alabama 0. susp. Alabama-Birmingham 1, Alabama 0, sus 1½ innings, lightning Aburm-Montgomery 13, Huntingdon 1 Augusta St. 5, Paine 3 Berry 11-6, Tenn-Temple 0-0 Catawba 11-9, St. Augustine's 0-2 Charlotte 10, Longwood 4 Duke 8, Elon 8, susp. 9 Innings, darkness Florida St. 7, Stetson 6 Florida St. 7, Stetson 6 G. Washington 8, J. Madison 4, 11 inni Georgia Tech 11, Georgia St. 6 Guillford 4, Greensboro 3, 10 innings High Point 8, Wofford 4 LaGrange 11, Oglethorpe 1 Lander 14, Benedict 1, Lincoln Memorial 10, Virginia-Wise 7 N. C. Wesleyan 8, Mount Olive 5 dison 4 11 innings

N.L. westeyan 8, Mount Dilve 5 North Georgia 5, Anderson, S.C. 3 Nova Southeastern 6, Mercy, N.Y. 1 Rollins 7, St. Leo 1 Virginia 8, Old Dominion 0 West Alabama 5, Kennesaw St. 1 SOUTHWEST St. Edward's 9, Toxas A&M-Kingsville 5 AR WEST Arizona 11, Arizona St. 5

Tennis

Dubai Championships

Thursday
At Dubal Tennis Stadium
Dubals Lens
Dubals Le Russia, 7-6 (5), 6-1. Ivan Liubicic (8), Croatia, def. Fernando Verdasco, Spain, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (8). Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, def. Juan Carlos Ferrero, Spain, 4-5, 6-3, 7-6 (6).

Oatar Open

At The Khalifa Tennis Centre
Doba, Qatar
Doba
Singles
Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, def. Conchi-

Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, def. Conchi-tal Martinez, Spain, 6-4, 6-1, Alicia Molik (4), Australia, def. Francesca Schiayone, Italy, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (1). Maria Sharapova (2), Russia, def. Marion Bartoli, France, 6-3, 6-2, Amelie Mauresmo (1), France, def. Maria Kirilenko, Russia, 6-2, 6-2

Tennis Channel Open Wednesday At The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess

Scottsdale, Ariz. Purse: \$380,000 (Intl. Series) Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles First Round

Fixt Bound
Christophe Rochus, Belgium, def. Jeff Morrison, United States, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4,
Wayne Armicend Bound
Gimelstob, United States, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (6),
Giovania Lagaretti, Ecuador, def. Justin
Giovania Lagaretti, Ecuador, def. Iradil Laberger de la compania del compania de la compania del compania de la compania del com

Mexican Open

At The Fairmont Acapuico Princess Acapuico, Mexico Purse: Men, \$643,000 (Intl. Gold); Wor \$180,000 (Tier III) Surface: Clay-Outdoor Singles

Jirik Novak (4), Czech Republic, def. Oscar ernandez (17), Spain 6-3, 6-1. Hernandez (17), Spain 6-3, 6-1. Albert Montanes (18), Spain, def. Tomas Zib (20), Czech Republic, 6-4, 7-6 (15). Agust D in Calleri (11), Argentina, def. Juan Monaco (16), Argentina, 7-6 (4), 6-2. Felix Mantilla, Spain, def. David Ferrer (7),

MILLAR/HNDS

0

Framanuelle G. 187 (1992). Switzerland, def. Camille Pin (2), France, 6-2, 6-1, Flavia Pennetta (1), Italy, oef. Julia Schruft (1), Med. Julia Schruft (1), Polight (1), F.S. 5-4, Martia Domachowska (7), Polight (1), F.S. 5-4, Martia Julia Schruft (1), Med. Julia Schruft (1), Med. Julia J

Catalina Castani, Colombia, def. Allina Ildk-ova (4), Russia, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, Ludmila Cervanova, Slovakia, Ildri, Minila Cervanova, Slovakia, Ildri, Minila Cervanova, Slovakia, Ildri, Minila Catalina, Perebiynis, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-2. Severine Belframe, France, def. Emille Loit (3), France, 7-6 (6), 7-5.

Auto racing

Busch Series standings

1. Tony Stewart, 190; 2. Kevin Harvick, 170; 3. Dale Earnhardt, Jr., 170; 4. Martin Truex, Jr., 160; 5. Kasey Kahne, 155; 6. Robby Gor-don, 150; 7. Greg Biffle, 147; 8. Michael Wal-trip, 146; 9. Carl Edwards, 139; 10. Reed Soren-son, 138.

Craftsman Trucks standings

Bobby Hamilton, 185; 2. Jimmy Spencer, 175; 3. Todd Bodine, 175; 4. Ricky Craven, 165; 5. Ted Musgrave, 155; 6. Brad Keselows-ki, 151; 7. Ken Weaver, 150; 8. David Starr, 142; 9. Johnny Benson, 139; 10. Wayne Ed-

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

Weunesday's transactions
Mascan-Final Da Agume,
Mascan-Final Da Agume,
orev chief
for hobby Gordon, 50,000 and docked car
owner lam Smith 25 championship points for
eit McSwain, crew chief for Ricky Ruda,
eit McSwain, crew chief for Ricky Ruda,
eit McSwain, crew chief for Ricky Ruda,
championship points and Gien Wood 20
owner points for an unapproved spoiler adowner points for an unapproved spoiler adreve chief for John Andrett St. 30,000 apliect
rever chief for John Andrett St. 30,000 apliect for Date Earnhard Tr., and Dave Charpenties.

For Date Earnhard Tr., and Dave Charpenties.

For Bruce, crew Chef for Dayny shamin, and Septem Yeags.

For Andy, Behavior, and Chris Showlier.

For Andy, Behavior, and Chris Showlier.

John Christopher Christoph

BASEBALL Mean League

BASEBALL
American League
BASTIMORE Offerican League
BASTIMORE Offerican League
Diaz has elected to become tree agent.
National League
HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with
PMD Iman Gutierrez and RHP Fernando Nieve n one-year contracts.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms
vith INF Lyle Overbay, INF Bill Hall and RHP Ben Hendrickson on one-year contracts.

SAN DIEGO PADRES—Agreed to terms with
RHP Andy Ashby and 1B-OF-C Robert Fick on minor league contracts.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Agreed to terms with RHP Chad Cordero on a one-year contract.

ontract.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
CHARLOTTE BOBCATS—Placed G Steve
mith on the injured list. Signed G Matt Car-

oll.

DALLAS MAVERICKS—Placed C Eric Dampir on the injured list. Activated C DJ Mbenga er on the injured list. from the injured list. from the injured list.

DENYER NUGGETS—Named Doug Moe assistant coach. Reassigned Michael Cooper.

Sasistant coach, within the organization.

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Placed G Luis Flores on the injured list. Activated F Troy Murphy from the injured list.

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Acquired F Chris Webber, F Matt Barnes and F Michael Brad ley from the Sacramento Kings for F Brian Skinner, F Kenny Thomas and F Corliss Will PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS—Placed G Derek inderson on the injured list. Activated F Sha-

the injured list.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS—Placed G Juan
Dixon and C Peter John Ramos on the injured
list. Activated G Larry Hughes and F Kwame
Brown from the injured list. Women's National Basketball Association SFATTLF STORM—Re-signed F Lauren Jack-

on.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS—Named Alex Gibbs

consultant, Clancy Barone tight ends coach and Jeff Jagodziński assistant head coach and offensive line coach. DALLAS COWBDYS—Signed QB Drew Bled-

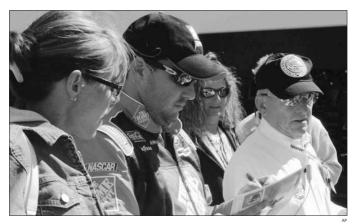
DALLAS COWEONS—Signed QB Drew Bled-soe to a three-year contract.
MIAMI DOLPHINS—Released QB Jay Fledler, S ATRUS Freeman, S Shawn Wooden and DE Jay Williams.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIATY COME AND A NEW ENGLAND PATRIATY COME AND A NEW ENGLAND PATRIATY COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A DEAD AND A COME AND A COME AND A DEAD AND A COME AND A COME AND A DEAD AND A COME AND A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME AND A COME A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A SECOND FROM A COME AND A COME Zeron Flemister.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Named Tim Ruskell president of football operations and general manager.

nanager.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
LOS ANGELES GALAXY—Acquired MF Guillrmo Ramirez on loan from CSD Municipal of
suatemala's First Division.

RACING STRIPES A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS



Tony Stewart signs autographs for fans in the garage area of the Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 18. Stewart, who has won IRL and Nextel Cup series titles, might be content to walk away from racing if he could win the Indy and Daytona 500s,

Eye on the finish line

Stewart already making plans for life after racing

44 If I could get

everything done I

want to get done,

I would probably

be gone from here

bu now. 77

Tony Stewart

BY JENNA FRYER The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. ony Stewart is someday going to break through and win the big races that always seem to get away from him. He's had chances at his beloved India-

napolis Motor Speedway, and has had victory in sight at the Daytona 500, only to come up short at the very end

If Stewart ever scores those wins, he might just climb out of his car and call it a career.

"If I could get everything done I want to get done, I would probably be gone from here by now - I would have won everything I wanted to win," Stew-

When the day comes that Stewart quits full-time racing, he'll walk away with a résumé that will rank him among the most talented drivers ever

He has nine championships in various forms of racing, starting with a Karting title he won in 1980 at 8 years old. He was the first driver in history to win USAC's Triple Crown in 1995 and he won the IRL series title in 1997. He then became the first IRL driver to successfully transition into NASCAR, where he claimed the 2002 series championship.

Those championships have given Stewart a great-er respect for the crown jewels on every schedule. He understands what an Indianapolis 500 title means to a driver's résumé, and the same for a Day-

tona 500 victory A driver can win 100 championships, but will for-

ever be recognized for the big wins

"I remember what it was like to win the IRL championship," Stewart said. "The next year, it was a weight lifted off my shoulders. I could concentrate on individual races. I didn't even look hardly at the

Perhaps that explains why Stewart hasn't really been a factor in the NASCAR's championship race since his 2002 title. He's already got that trophy, its the others he needs to complete his career

He came close again last weekend, leading a race-high 107 laps in

But with the finish line in sight, he again had the biggest win of his career snatched away when good buddy Dale Earnhardt Jr. pushed him out of the draft during a late-race pass for the lead and Stewart was shuffled back into traffic. He ended up a distant seventh, bitterly disappointed again after join-

ing the late Dale Earnhardt in the record book for

Earnhardt was the last driver to dominate the race and not win, leading 107 laps in 1993 and failing to earn a trip to Victory Lane

Stewart led the most laps at Daytona last year, too. But in the end, Earnhardt Jr. had the better car and Stewart ended up pushing him to the win.
Stewart is 0-for-7 in the Daytona 500 and the first driver since Bobby Allison to lead the most laps in ecutive 500s since he did it in 1981 and 1982.

But Allison won in 1982 Stewart is still trying.

"We could write a book about it. How many years did Dale Earnhardt go through it?" crew chief Greg Zipadelli moaned. "Hopefully we don't have to wait that long (20 years) to win one of these things.

As long as the title eludes him, Stewart might stick around NASCAR.

He's made no secret of his desire to get out while he's still young — he's 33 now — and is already planning for his future. He owns teams in the World of Outlaws and USAC racing series and recently

bought famed Eldora Speedway in Rossburg, Ohio

— the dirt track where he started his career. So now he spends his free time learning the ins and outs of running a race track.

For now, all he cares about is chasing those elusive victories — his next battle comes in August at Indy's Brickyard 400 because he says he's taking a break from the heartbreaking Indianapolis 500 right now - and building his portfolio.

"I might be one of those guys who wakes up one morning and say 'I've had enough' or decide to sign another five-year contract," he said. "You know me. It may depend on which way the wind's blowing right

NEXTEL CUP

Race 2: Auto Club 500 California Speedway 4 a.m. Monday AFN-Atlantic

Last race: Jeff Gordon overtook Dale Earnhardt Jr. three laps from the scheduled end, then held off Kurt Busch and Earnhardt in extra laps to become only the fifth driver to win three Daytona 500s. There were four lead changes in the last nine laps and two crashes involving a total of 17 cars in the last 20 laps.

Last year: Gordon won his third Auto Club 500, finishing 12.871 seconds ahead of teammate Jimmie Johnson. He won the inaugural race in 1997 and again in 1999.

Driver to watch: Jeff Gordon

14. Dave Blanes



After 1 of 36 races ..170 6. Tony Stewart156150 8. Sterling Marlin .142 9. Kevin Lepage... ..138 11 Elliott Sadler 130 12. Joe Nemechek . ..129 13. Carl Edwards ...

BUSCH SERIES

.121

This week: Stater Bros. 300 at Fontana alif. (Tape-delayed, 5 p.m. Sunday

t Daytona. ct race: Mexico 200. March 6. Mexico City **FORMULA ONE**

INDY RACING

CRAFTSMAN TRUCKS

day, AFK-Sports). Last race Bobby Hamilton was awarded the victory in the wreck-filled Florida Dodge Dealers 259 at Jayona International Speed-way after Jimmy Spencer initially took the circle. Hamilton took the lead after a restart with one lap to go, but Spencer was back in front when an eight-truck week started. However, before the caution flag came out. However, before the caution flag came out. the first truck driver to win a race from the last starting position.

Next race: World Financial Group 200, larch 18, Hampton. Ga.

CHAMP CARS

Next race: Season-openin Long Beach (Calif.), April 10.

Standings for other series on Page 33.

Enigmatic Moss headed to Oakland

Vikings will reportedly get LB Harris, No. 7 pick and late-round selection

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS - Randy Moss' electrifying talent was no longer enough for the Minnesota Vikings to put up with his distracting antics.

Dante DiTrapano, Moss' agent, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the Vikings and the Oakland Raiders had "come to an agreement on Randy playing for Oakland next year.

Neither the Vikings nor the Raiders would confirm the deal, which was first reported by The St. Paul Pioneer Press.

"We have had discussions with the Oak land Raiders, but there's nothing to announce," Rob Brzezinski, Minnesota's vice president of football operations, told The Associated Press.

Raiders spokesman Mike Taylor said, "I cannot comment on the deal specifically. however, this organization has always been tremendously aggressive and Randy Moss rates with the great players of all-time. Great players want to play for the Raiders

DiTranano said he didn't know the terms of the deal, but the Pioneer Press reported the Vikings would get linebacker Napoleon Harris, along with the seventh overall pick and a late-round pick in the upcoming draft.

The deal cannot become official until March 2 the start of the NFL's fiscal year Moss is due to make \$7.25 million next

year. Harris is due to make \$5.41 million. Oakland's renegade owner Al Davis has long embraced combustible players and the vertical passing game, so adding Moss seems to be a perfect fit.

The timing of the move comes as a bit of a surprise with the Vikings in the midst of an ownership change. Red McCombs has agreed to sell the team to Arizona businessman Reggie Fowler, a deal that still needs to be approved by the NFL.

Trade rumors have surrounded the flam

He struggled with a hamstring injury. but had 13 touchdown catches last season He was fined \$10,000 for pretending to pull down his pants and moon the Green Bay crowd during Minnesota's playoff win. He also drew criticism for leaving the field with 2 seconds left in a regular-season loss against Washington.

boyant Moss during the offseason

Team leaders Matt Birk and Daunte Culpepper confronted Moss after he walked off at Washington, and the organization's natience with the receiver seemed to dwindle in the past year or so.

"He's my good friend, but you almost get to thinking that maybe enough is enough," Culpepper said earlier this month at the Pro Bowl. "And maybe the Vikings organization has had enough."

Last year's transgressions were the latest in a long line of headline-grabbing negative behavior for Moss that included bumping a traffic control officer with his car in 2002, verbally abusing corporate sponsors on a team bus in 2001 and squirting an offi-

cial with a water bottle in 1999. But when he was focused and healthy on the field, there was no denying his considerable ability.

His 9,142 receiving yards are the most by any player over his first seven seasons. The Vikings' offensive identity was built around Moss' uncanny ability to leap over smaller

defensive backs to catch deep passes. Moss burst into the league in 1998 and has been a big reason why the Vikings have sold out every game, including preseason, since he arrived. "The Freak" caught 17 TD passes - many of them long, high-arching throws from Randall Cunningham - to help lead the Vikings to the



Despite averaging 82 catches, 1,306 yards and 12.9 TD receptions while missing only three games in seven NFL seasons, most fans remember Randy Moss for mooning fans in Green Bay this January.

NFC championship game in his rookie sea-

He had his best season in 2003 with 111 catches for 1,632 yards and 17 touch-

He'll leave Minnesota as the only receiver in NFL history to start his career with six straight 1,000-yard seasons. Last year, he had 49 catches for 767 yards and 13

But after the Vikings lost to Philadelphia in the playoffs this season, coach Mike Tice talked of molding the Minnesota into a run-

Perhans in a veiled reference to Moss Tice also said the Vikings needed leaders to emerge.

"I've said many times before — until the leadership takes over the locker room, we're not going to make the big jump to where we need to be," Tice said in Janu-ary. "The teams that are playing now — New England and Philadelphia - have tremendous leadership in their locker room. They take care of everything.

Miami cuts QB Fiedler

MIAMI - The Miami Dolphins re-

leased quarterback Jay Fiedler on Wednesday, ending his five-year run as the maligned successor to Dan Marino. Last year. Fiedler started just seven games while spend-

briefs

ing much of the season on the injured list with a herniated disc. Fiedler was due a \$2 million roster bonus

in March.

After Marino left before the 2000 season, Fiedler was the only starting quar-terback for former Dolphins coach Dave Wannstedt, But after Wannstedt's resignation in November, interim coach Jim Bates replaced Fielder with A.J. Feeley the rest of the season

Eagles tender RB Westbrook

PHILADELPHIA - The Eagles tendered restricted free agent Brian Westbrook on Wednesday, giving Philadel-phia the right to match any offer he receives or a first-round pick from any team that signs him. The one-year tener will cost the team \$1.43 million.

On Thursday, the team released linebacker Nate Wayne, who started seven

Titans' Rolle waives court hearing

FRANKLIN, Tenn. — Former Titans cornerback Samari Rolle waived his right to an initial court hearing for allegedly hitting his wife, court officials said

Thursday.
His wife, Danisha Rolle, was treated for a cut over her left eye the night of Feb. 14, and hospital officials called authorities, police said.

Samari Rolle was arrested the next day on a misdemeanor assault charge. He could face from probation to a year in prison if convicted. The next court

Weather adds to unpredictability of Match Play By Doug Ferguson The Associated Press

CARLSBAD Calif Match Play Championship features 64 of the best players in the world. The guy getting most of the attention at La Costa Resort is someone not even playing this

Mark Russell is the PGA Tour tournament director who determines whether a golf course is suitable to play. His appearance in the press room Wednesday afternoon was his fourth in the past five days, more than Tiger Woods has made all year.

At least this time, Russell brought good news.

Despite ponds where there was fairway and water spilling over creeks, the Match Play Championship was set to start Thursday.

"I hope we can get out there and get these guys playing golf and you can stop talking to me and start talking to some of them " Russell said

The talk still figures to focus on wet conditions

La Costa will play longer than usual because the soggy condi-tions will negate any roll. David Toms played the front nine Tuesday before it rained, and Todd Hamilton played the back nine.



Tiger Woods' record is 20-3 in the Match Play Championship.

They swapped notes over lunch, and the shortest club either had was a 7-iron into the greens. Russell said players would be able to lift, clean and place their balls through the green

"I wish they'd play lift, clean and tee it up," Toms said. "The tough part is trying to find a dry

But this might be one tournament in which course conditions, while they might favor a longer hitter, probably won't be considered unfair. Match play isn't about the course, it's about the opponent.

And while all the attention is on Woods, Vijay Singh and Phil Mickelson, ranking means nothing

"When you talk about the top 65

Match Play Championship At La Costa Resort and Spa Carlsbad, Calif. Thursday's first-round matches (Seedings in parentheses) Bobby Jones bracket by Singh (1) vs. Shingo Kayatama

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riger woods (1) vs. Nick Price (16)
Nick O'Hern (8) vs. Charles Howell III (9)
Kenny Perry (4) vs. Thomas Levet (13)
Luke Donald (5) vs. Zach Johnson (12)
Padraig Harrington (2) vs. Jeff Maggert (15)
Thomas Bjorn (7) vs. Rory Sabbatin (10)
Stuart Appleby (3) vs. Joakim Haeggman (14)
Ilim Engyk (5) vs. Ina Poutber (11)*

Angle Caprera (8) VS. Paul Casely (9)
Davis Toms (4) vs. Richard Green (13)
Stephen Ames (5) vs. Mark Hensby (12)
Sergio Garcia (2) vs. Alex Cejka (15)
Scott Verplank (7) vs. Jerry Kelly (10)
Adam Scott (3) vs. Trevor Immelman (14)
Shigeki Maruyama (6) vs. David Howell (11)

players in the world, at that level. there's such a fine margin ... that it's hard to have that come out over 18 holes." Mickelson said. 'And because it's just 18 holes, it evens the entire playing field."

There is almost no point handi capping the field in this World Golf Championship. Woods is the two-time defend-

ing champion, and his 20-3 record in five appearances at La Costa is remarkable. Mickelson is the hottest player in golf, winning by five shots in Phoenix and four shots at Pehble Reach Singh is the No. 1 player in the world.

They stand just as good a chance as the other 61 players at La Costa.

"When you get into a field like this, anybody can beat anybody in 18 holes," Woods said. been proven in this match-play format time and time again. I'm playing a three-time major cham-pionship winner. It's going to be a good fight, and it's going to be a

Woods faces Nick Price, who's playing for only the fifth time on the PGA Tour since the British Open last year, which contributed to his slide in the world ranking. He was No. 64 when the field was determined last week, facing the No. 2 seed (Woods) only because No. 3 Ernie Els decided not

Not that it would have mattered. If Els had come to La Costa, Price would have had to play Singh. And if someone else pulled out, he got Mickelson.

"If you look at my predicament . it's jumping out of the frying pan into the fire," Price said.

Still, a two-time PGA champion and former British Open champion isn't about to back down from anvone.

In an 18-hole match, the underdog always has the slight advantage from a mental point of view, because you've really got nothing to lose," Price said. "You just go out there and fire. I'm looking forward to it. I really am

It wouldn't seem like the Match Play Championship is all that hard to figure out, especially with Woods holding the trophy the past two years as the No. 1 seed.

Two years ago, Woods went to the final hole only once in six matches, had only five bogevs in 112 holes and his only scare came from Adam Scott of Australia. A vear ago. Woods was lucky to escane the first round, and even more fortunate to face players not at their best.

Was he good or lucky?

"Both," Woods said. "I've played matches where I've beaten my opponent, and there are match es when I stole one. I've been in the finals three times in this event, and I can't say I've played well in every single match. I've had my share where I haven't played well, but just well enough.'

Kubasaki ends Seoul American boys' reign

Kubasaki of Okinawa stopped Seoul American's bid for a third straight Far East Class AA boys basketball title on

Thursday Steven Ellis had 22 points, Stephen Th-ompson 18 and Marcus Carson 17, and the co-host Dragons overcame foul trouble to upend Seoul American 78-69 in the quarter-



finals on their home floor. "It's someone else's turn," Kubasaki coach Chris Sullivan said afterward in a joyous Dragons locker room. "It feels good. The

credit goes to the play-ers. They hustled, made shots that were important and never gave up, even when they were in foul trou-

When senior guard Vincent Hobbs sat with four fouls in the third period, Reggie Pearson came off the bench "to hit some big shots, grab some big rebounds and run the floor," Sullivan said. Thompson had three fouls at halftime, and Carson played

the last three minutes with four fouls. The Dragons reached the semifinals for the second time in three years and avenged

a loss to the Falcons in the 2003 final. It also meant a trip to Kadena High, where the Panthers lay in wait for a semifinal matchup. Kadena and Kubasaki split four regular-season games.

"I'm taking nothing for granted," Sullivan said.

How does a coach keep a team motivated after expending so much emotional energy bringing down a champion?

"It's going to be difficult," he said. "Ev-

erything from this point on could be anticlimatic. ... But they have good heads on their shoulders." Cougars conquer press, reach Girls Class A final again

This time. Osan American was ready for the St. Paul Christian press. And the Cougars' reward was a trip to Center Court for the fifth straight year in the Girls Class A

tournament. After losing Monday in pool play 63-59 to the Warriors, a game in which Osan com-mitted 28 turnovers, the Cougars used a patient passing game, and continually fed 6-foot-4 center Margaret Nurse (33 points. 26 rebounds) and forward Mina Davis

(24-20) for easy layups. "We've been watching them from the beginning of the tournament," said Cougars senior guard Sharon Kroening. "This time. we had it planned out. Pass quicker instead of dribbling, which is the only way to break their press. And feed Margaret. She's the

key to the game in a situation like this No team besides Osan has made it to the Class A finals five straight years, Osan won the title in 2001 and '02 before losing to Faith Academy of the Philippines in 2003 and International School of the Sacred Heart last year

Osan faced Faith in Friday afternoon's championship.

Buzzer-beating shot gives Kinnick girls first win over Yokota this season

Unlike Seoul American's boys, the third time proved the charm for Kinnick's girls. Lualhati Johnson's half-court, three-point, buzzer-beating shot gave the Red Devils a 59-57 victory over Yokota, their first win in three tries against the Panthers this sea-

Girls Class AA

Nile C. Kinnick, Japan

Yokota, Japan Kubasaki, Okinawa Hong Kong International Seisen International, Tokyo

The win earned Kinnick the ton seed from Pool A and a first-round bye in the single-elimination playoffs.

"It was just like a championship game. It's never over with Yokota until the buzzer sounds," Kinnick coach Henry Falk said after Yokota rallied from five points down with 39 seconds left to tie. "Yokota is a heck of a team. That was the best game my girls have played all year."

The Devils weren't planning on celebrating too long.

"We know what happened to the boys," Falk said of Kinnick's boys, who lost in the first round of the playoffs in the Class AA tournament on Okinawa. "We're not in the semifinals vet. We're not in the ton four yet. We can beat anybody and anybody can beat us. It depends on who shows up to play on what day '

Osan boys scramble all the way to third

Osan's boys season, meanwhile, could be summed up in one word: injuries. Virtually from the start of the season to the Boys Class A tournament in Japan, the Cougars resembled an infirmary at times, playing the last two days of Far East with six healthy players.

Yet despite the adversity. Osan finished second in the Korean-American Interscho lastic Activities Conference's large-schools division, then placed third in Class A.

Their bid for a second Center Court appearance in three years came up short when the Cougars rallied from a 20-point deficit, only to come up three points short of St. Paul 55-52

"My guys were tired. St. Paul jumned on us early and we had to fight like anything, coach Bruce Collins said of a team that

Tapia 22, Tony Thacker 11 (three three-point goals).

St. Paul Christian 55, Osan American 52 St. Paul 22 14 7 12-55 Osan 4 16 15 17-52

Leading scorers-St. Paul, Tristan 7 Osan. Chris Durham 19 (six thr



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stri

E.J. King guard Bianca Cruz, left, battles Leyna Armour of Sacred Heart for the ball during Thursday's quarterfinal game, won by defending champ Sacred Heart 54-33.

played three times on Thursday rallying to win the first two — 48-44 over host Matthew C. Perry and 44-41 over last year's runner-up E.J. King.
"We had looked to finish higher but inju-

ries hurt us." Collins said. Brandon Holling aggravated a knee inju-

ry on Tuesday, Cory Black sat out two days with an ankle injury and Ellis Colton was hobbled by an ankle the past three days.

Freshmen such as Jay Carver and Joey Dennis "stepped up big time." Collins said. "Without them, we'd have never made it as far as we did."

Far East basketball tournament scoreboard

Amp Haleah, Pusan, South Korea Single-elimination playoffs Thursday First round St. Paul Christian 51, Perry 23 al 4 7 8 9-23 Leading scorers-St. Paul, Celine Cruz 1: (three three-point goals); Perry, Cristina Sin dding scorers-Morrison, Heather Crance adding scorers-Morrison, Heather Crance eoul, Song Yoon 8, Tara Wang 8, san American 38, Taejon Christian 34 8 7 8 15-38 9 4 12 9-34 Pricanna Carroll вгіеаппа Carroll abraya Hays 10; ud 13 Michelle Lee 7.

Quarterfinals
Sacred Heart 54, E.J. King 33
ISSH
E.J. King 218 7 6-33
Leading scorers-Sacred Heart, Leyna Ar-bour 15 (13 second half), Mari Look 13 (9 second half), Vart Kobayashi 10; E.J. King, Bian-ca Cruz 11 (Urree second-quarter three-point goals), Erika Alexander 10. Moraison 4 7 9 lb-sis Moraison School Moraison School Moraison Moraison Moraison Moraison Muth Cheng 9, Heather Craker 8. Heather Craker 8. 12 12 12 13 14-46 Pusan School Moraison Mor Pusan Leading scorers-Faith, Charis Jones 8; Pusan, Brieanna Carroll 8. Semifinals Osan American 63, St. Paul Christian 60 Osan St. Paul 15 17 19 12-63

St. Paul 15 11 13 21-60 Leading scorers-Osan, Margaret Nurse 33, Mina Davis 24; St. Paul, Mallary Duenas 22, Celine Cruz 13 (11 second half), Nory Latimer 11 (three three-point goals). Notewor-thy-Osan out-rebounded St. Paul 62-26. Paith Academy 51, Sacred Heart 36

Taegu American vs. Morrison Christian E.J. Ring vs. Pusan American St. Paul Christian vs. Sacred Heart Championship Osan American vs. Faith Academy Single-elimination playoffs Thursday CAJ 45, Seisen 27 12 4 14 15-45 6 13 4 4-27 ing scorers-CAJ, Kelsey Masuda 22; Yuri Koshibe 7. Jama American 4 South Post, Yongsan Garrison, S. K. Yokota Yokota Ni, Remne's 16 14 1470
FK MIN STANDARY NI STANDARY N Seisen International vs. Kubasaki John F. Kennedy vs. Guam High Seoul American JV vs. JFK-Guam winner Hong Kong International vs. Seis-n-Kubasaki winner ternational vs. Kubasaki winner Kubasaki winner ternats Kinnick vs. Christian Academy In Japan Hong Korig, Lauren Hus Z.

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Leading Scorer-Kadena, Britery McCalu
ley 21; ASIJ, Jessica Barone 15, Kini Harrison

Seud American T, Vanandari Zama American vs. Kadena Yokota vs. American School In Japan Robert D. Edgren vs. Seoul American **Boys Class A** CAJ 41, Edgren 29 CAJ 51, Edgren 25 12 12 12-41 Edgren 5 6 3 13-29 Leading scorers-CAJ, Kelsey Masuda 21: Edgren, Gerralyn Calhoun 8. Kadena 47, Zama American 33 Kadena 47, Zama American 33
Kadena 7 21 9 11
Zama 8 6 9 11
Leading scorers-Kadena, Elizabeth Ct
18, Britney McCauley 10; Zama, Tif
Wright 18.

Boys Class AA Camp Foster, Okinawa Single-elimination playoffs Thursday 4 17 19 27-67 12 9 11 14-46 Leading scorers-Kinnick, Paul Ergus 21 (11 third quarter), Leonard Lynce 15, David Mc Dermott 14 (three three-point goals), Travis Ekmark 13, Paolo Padua 12 (four three-point goals); Edgren, Woody Carter 26 (10 first quarter), Shamar Riddick 18 (10 first quar St. Mary's 66, Christian Academy 45 St. Mary's 66, Christian Academy 45 St. Mary's 18 12 20 16-6 CAJ 17 4 13 11-4 Leading scorers-St. Mary's, Jun Dambara 2; CAJ, Jesse McDaniel 14. Simon Sanchez 68, Hong Kong Inter. 61 Sanchez 12 20 19 17-68 Sanchez 12 20 19 17-68 Hong Kong 9 9 20 23-61 Leading scorers-Sanchez, Rodrigo Grande 20, Stanley Serisola 20, Mark Lagman 19; Hong Kong, David Mock 22, Ian Hosford 14. Quarterlinals rterfinals

Kubasaki 78, Seoul American 69

asaki 24 13 18 23-78

al acting scorers-Kubasaki, Steven Ellis 22,
nie Stephens 18, Marcus Carson 17;
al Anthony Gatillo 17. Disc. 18, no... ony Gatlin 17. Kadena 54, ASIJ 37 17 13 9 15-54 9 10 9 9-37 Taire Jackson Leading scorers-Kadena, Z'aire Jackson Terrence Reid 15 (10 first guarter, four 25, Ferrence Reid 15 (10 inst quarter, four three-point goals): ASIJ, Shawn Seever 19. Yokota 55, Guam High 42 Yokota 19 14 15 7-55 Guam High 4 13 9 16-42 Leading scorers-Yokota, Cameron Cooper okota 19 14 15 r-25 usum High Leading scorers-Yokota, Cameron Cooper 6, Kenny Harris 16; Guam High, Brandon Bu-ord 11, Justin Lee 11. Morrison Christian 50, Father Duenas 41 lotrison 18 17 1 14-50 ather Duena Eading scorer-Morrison, Greg Grobler 16. Friday's pames ing scorers-Osan, Chris Durham 16 etz 12; Perry, Kevin Lee 15, Ephrem Friday's games
Father Duenas vs. Simon Sanchez rather Duenas VS. Simon Sanchez Zama American VS. Guam High American School In Japan Vs. St. Mary's Kinnick Vs. Seoul American Kinnick vs. Seoul American Hong Kong International vs. Edgren Christian Academy In Japan vs. Kennedy Sentifinals Kubasaki vs. Kadena Yokota vs. Morrison Christian

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Top 25



Villanova's Randy Foye celebrates in the final minute against Boston College, Fove led with 23 points as Villanova won 76-70.

Villanova adds BC to ranked victims

By DAN GELSTON The Associated Press

VILLANOVA, Pa. - With big wins over ranked teams and a winning surge that has them streaking up the Big East standings, the Villanova Wildcats seem poised to return to the NCAA tournament

Still, coach Jay Wright is not resting easily.

"We really don't talk about that," Wright said, "We're very concerned about our regular season. It's so subjective. We go for

our own goals.' Check beating the No. 2 and 3 teams in the country off the list.

Randy Foye scored 23 points and the 23rd-ranked Wildcats survived a nine-minute stretch without a field goal to beat No. 3 Boston College 76-70 on Wednesday night.

The enthusiastic fans stormed the court just as they have for two other home wins over Top 25 teams, chanted "Tournament!" and shook hands with Wright.

"We're learning how to win," Wright said.

The Wildcats (18-6, 8-5 Big East) beat their fourth Top 25 team of the year, including a win over then-No. 2 Kansas last month, and bolstered their chances of making their first NCAA tournament appearance since 1999

Villanova has won nine of 11 and moved into a three-way tie for fourth place with Pittsburgh and Georgetown in the conference standings. Boston College remained in first, one game ahead of Connecticut.

"We were confident we could come in and play well, but we're not thinking about the NCAAs," said Curtis Sumpter,

scored 18 of his 20 points in the first half. Kyle Lowry added 11

points for the Wildcats. Craig Smith led a second-half rally for Boston College (22,2 11-2) and finished with 18 points while Jared Dudley had 15.

The Wildcats, coming off a win over then-No. 17 Pittsburgh on Sunday, used 70 percent Sunday, three-point shooting in the first half to take a halftime lead they stretched to 13 points early in the second half. When Jason Fraser made a layup at the 13:15 mark, Wildcats led 57-47 seemed in control.

The Eagles - who rallied from halftime deficits to win eight times this season — started their run while Villanova went into a field-goal drought.

Steve Hailey capped a 12-2 spurt with a three-pointer that pulled the Eagles to 62-60 with 6:23 left.

Foye banked a 6-footer for a 67-64 lead, ending the drought. The Wildcats never lost the lead thanks to 8-for-10 free-throw shooting during that span. They were 36-for-41 overall from the

line "It's very difficult to win a game when the opposing team shoots 41 free throws," Boston College coach Al Skinner said 'We just didn't make the plays that were going to tie it and make them feel uncomfortable. We never got over the hump.

No, but they gave the Wildcats a scare.

Hailey pulled BC to 67-66 with a jumper, but fouled out on the next possession.

Fove pushed the lead to 73-68 with an arcing baseline jumper. Then, the Wildcats sealed it from

Devils stifle Jackets' momentum

ATLANTA - Even with B.J. Elder back, Georgia Tech can't seem to generate momentum to make a run for an NCAA tournament bid.

Elder made his second straight start after missing nine games at the start of the Atlantic Coast Conference schedule with a hamstring injury, but the senior who normally provides scoring leadership for the Yellow Jackets was held to two points in a 60-56

loss to No. 7 Duke on Wednesday night. Tech was 0-for-5 from three-point range, committed 19 turnovers and shot 29 per-

cent from the field in the second half, wasting a strong defensive effort "I think the turnovers are put-

roundup ting some pressure on us," Georgia Tech coach Paul Hewitt said. "The first half, in particular, we had some breakouts, and I thought if we could convert those, mentally and psychologically we could get into the flow a little bit. And then you're not squeezing the shot like

it's the one The struggles have left Tech without consecutive

wins since early January. Hewitt said Duke (20-4, 10-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) looks like a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. One year after advancing to the NCAA championship game, Tech (15-9, 6-7) is not even assured of a bid

Tech which now faces road games at Miami and Wake Forest before closing its conference schedule at home against Clemson, needs an offensive lift to boost its postseason outlook.

Elder, who was 1-for-8 from the field, played just 4 minutes in the first half after picking up two fouls.

Junior Lee Melchionni delivered two late three-pointers to lift Duke.

With Tech focusing its defense on J.J. Redick, Melchionni snapped a 49-49 tie with a three-pointer from the corner with 3:15 left. He added another three with 1:26 left for a 57-52 lead

With Duke leading 57-54, Melchionni missed a shot from the top of the circle as the shot clock expired, but Daniel Ewing grabbed the rebound for the Blue Devils and was fouled with 31 seconds left. Duke guard Sean Dockery, who suffered a knee in-

jury in the victory, is out indefinitely. Dockery, who played in Duke's first 24 games, tore the medial collateral ligament in his right knee,

the school announced Thursday.
"We feel badly for Sean," coach Mike Krzyzewski said, "He was having a great year for us and was an integral part of the success we've enjoyed so far. He's one of our fighters."

Dockery started 19 times this season and has a scoring average of 6.5 points per game for the Blue Devils. He is shooting 48 percent from the floor, including 42.9 percent from three-point range.

No. 1 Illinois 84, Northwestern 48: Dee Brown scored 18 of his 20 points on three-pointers to lead the Illini (28-0, 14-0), who clinched at least a share of the Big Ten title for the second straight season. Brown had five threes in the first half as Illinois took



Georgia Tech's Jarrett Jack, center, battles Duke's Daniel Ewing, left, and Sheldon Williams for a loose hall in the second half on Wednesday.

a 45-22 lead. It was Illinois' 24th straight Big Ten win, and 20th in a row at Assembly Hall.

No. 5 Kentucky 81, Auburn 73: Kelenna Azubuike had career highs of 30 points and 11 rebounds for the Wildcats (21-3, 12-1 Southeastern Conference), who clinched at least a share of the East Division title for the sixth straight season.

No. 6 Wake Forest 88, Longwood 47: Taron Downey scored 13 points as the Demon Deacons (23-4) cruised to the nonconference home win.

Michael Jefferson scored 14 points for the Lancers (1-29), who extended their school-record losing streak to 18 games in their first full season of Division I competition.

No. 15 Syracuse 83. St. John's 69: Hakim Warrick had a career-high 35 points and grabbed 10 rebounds — his 12th double-double of the season and the Orange (23-5, 10-4 Big East) broke a game losing streak to give coach Jim Boeheim his 699th win

Daryll Hill had a career-high 33 points for the Red Storm (9-15, 3-11), who lost their 20th straight road game.

West Virginia 70, No. 18 Pittsburgh 66: Kevin Pittsnogle scored 20 of his 22 points in the second half and the visiting Mountaineers (17-8, 7-7 Big East) rallied from 14 points down to sweep the sea son series and win for the fifth time in six games overall

Chevon Troutman had 15 points for the Panthers (18-6, 8-5), who didn't have a field goal in the final 7:26 in losing their second straight.

No. 21 Charlotte 80, Memphis 77: At Charlotte, N.C., Eddie Basden scored 24 points, including two free throws with 1.8 seconds to play, and the 49ers (20-4, 11-2) won their sixth straight and moved into a tie with Louisville for first place in Conference

Shaq has knee sprain, might play Saturday

MIAMI - Miami Heat All-Star center Shaquille O'Neal has a mildly sprained left knee and might play Saturday against Orlando the

NBA briefs

Magic MRI An exam confirmed a mild sprain, the team

said Thursday. O'Neal didn't comment to reporters waiting outside the hospital, and is listed as day to He was injured in the first two

minutes of Tuesday's game in Chicago when he leaped to catch an alley-oop pass from Dwyane Wade and landed awkwardly atop Bulls forward Othella Harrington. O'Neal stayed on the

court for several minutes, clearly

He didn't return to the game, and missed Wednesday's contest at Indiana. Miami, which leads the Eastern Conference with a 40-16 record, lost both games in overtime.

O'Neal, a 12-time All-Star, is averaging 22.7 points - on an NBA-best 59.9 percent from the field - and 10.4 rebounds this season. He has missed only two full games because of injuries this year, compared with 15 in each of his previous three seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Robcats' White to miss rest of season with shoulder injury

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Char-

lotte Bobcats center Jahidi White will undergo surgery on his injured right shoulder and miss the rest of the season, the team said Thursday

White had been on and off the injured list since hurting his shoulder Nov. 30 at New Jersey.

He appeared in 18 games this season, averaging 2.5 points and 2.0 rebounds. A seven-year veteran. White was chosen by the Bobcats from Phoenix in last June's expansion draft.

Also Thursday, the Bobcats said the Cleveland Cavaliers have lifted all conditions on a 2005 first-round draft pick that Charlotte acquired during the expansion draft. That guarantees the Bobcats at least two picks in the first round.

O'Neal sparks Pacers past Shaq-less Heat

BY STEVE HERMAN The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS - Jermaine was the dominant O'Neal on Wednesday night. With injured Shaquille O'Neal watching from Miami's bench, Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal scored all three Pacers baskets in overtime, including a turnaround jumper from the baseline with 11 seconds remain-

ing, in a 93-91 victory over the Heat. They may be a little more fluid without him in there," Jermaine O'Neal said.
"When he's there, it's a big challenge for the big guys. Without him, they do a lot of things they don't usually do. But I knew I could get a shot over whichever guys they

O'Neal finished with 29 points, 14 rehounds and five blocked shots as the Pacers won their fourth straight and their 11th in a row over the Heat.

Shaquille O'Neal, who injured his knee in an overtime loss at Chicago on Tuesday night, on Thursday in Miami had an MRI that showed he has a mild knee sprain. He might be able to play against the Orlando Magic on Saturday. He was on the sideline Wednesday as the Eastern Confer-ence-leading Heat rallied from a 14-point icit in the second quarter.

Miami pulled to 66-63 after three quarters and caught the Pacers in the closing minutes of regulation.

"Tonight was a game I felt was going to be equally tough with or without Shaq Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said.



Indiana Pacers forward Jermaine O'Neal, left, hits the game-winning shot over Miami Heat's Udonis Haslem on Wednesday night.

"We were fortunate that Shaq was out, but you never want to see a guy that means this much to our league not playing," Carlisle said. "I know a lot of our fans were disappointed not to get a chance to see him. but these things happen. You hope you can pull it together and win. We did, and we're very pleased about that."

Dwyane Wade had 38 points, one point short of his career high set in November against Iltah and scored nine in the final eight minutes of the fourth quarter.

"We have two tough losses the last two nights, but if one play goes the other way, we're winning those games," Wade said. "We have a lot of confidence in ourselves and we know when Shag comes back, we

Two free throws by Jermaine O'Neal put Indiana ahead 87-85 with 32 seconds left, but Damon Jones scored on a goaltending call against O'Neal with 18 seconds to go. sending the game to overtime.

After O'Neal's first basket in the extra period, Miami took the lead 91-89 on a rebound tip by Udonis Haslem and two free throws by Wade O'Neal then tied the game at 91 and rebounded a miss by Wade to set up the winning basket.

"It was drawn up for me to go strong-side and then go weak-side and post up over Haslem." O'Neal said. "I had a couple of inches on him. From that side, it was just me and the backboard. I took the shot and made it."

A desperation shot by Wade went off the rim at the huzzer

"It felt good," Wade said, "I bobbled the ball a little bit and tried to get it off in time. It came up a little short.

Reggie Miller added 23 points for Indi-

ana and Stephen Jackson finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Jones had 17 points for the Heat, while

Haslem added 11 points and a career-high

18 rebounds. Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said Wade

was phenomenal." "He was great, attacking, making plays, making jump shots. He was by far the best

player on the floor." Wade, scoring in double figures for a career-high 31st straight game, was the focus of the Heat's offense with Shaq on the sideline. He had six early points as Miami jumped ahead 11-4 and five more the rest of the first quarter before the Pacers took

A three-pointer and two free throws by Miller tied the game, then O'Neal gave Indiana its first lead less than a minute later. There was one more lead change and one more tie before a pair of free throws by Jackson put the Pacers in front.

Jackson added a three-pointer and O'Neal scored on a dunk as the Pacers finished the quarter with a 10-3 run and a 27-21 lead

Indiana built the lead to 14 points midway through the second period before three baskets by Michael Doleac, who started in place of Shaq, keyed a 13-3 run that brought the Heat within four. A basket by O'Neal with a second remaining gave Indiana a 47-41 lead at halftime.

There were five lead changes and eight more ties before O'Neal's winning basket.

NBA scorehoard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division W L Pct 27 28 .491 26 27 .491 23 32 .418 22 32 .407 21 33 .389 Miami Washington Orlando 25 .528 11 40 .216 10 43 .189 Central Division vision 33 19 .635 31 21 .596 27 24 .529

Western Conference

32 23 .582 30 24 .556 11 43 .204 Memphis New Orleans Seattle Minnesota 11 13 16 201/2 Pacific Division

42 13 .764

34 20 .630

28 24 .538

23 31 .426

16 38 .296

Wednesday's gai Indiana 93, Miami 91, 0 gai Indiana 93, Miami 91, 0 gai Indiana 93, Miami 91, 0 gai Indiana 93, Memphis 83 Milwauke 100, New Orleans 85 Dallas 101, Utah 83 Denver 107. Rostog 25

Thursday's gai Philadelphia at New York Sacramento at Dallas Minnesota at L.A. Clippers

Charlotte at New Jersey Denver at Memphis Cleveland at Indiana Toronto at Milwaukee Washington at Chi

Minnesota at Seattle
Saturday's games
Orlando at Miami

Wednesday Pacers 93, Heat 91 (OT)

MIAMI — E.Jones 3-12 4-4 11, Haslem 3-11 5-8 11, Doleac 3-4 0-0 6, Wade 13-24 12-15 38, D.Jones 7-15 1-2 17, Allen 1-4 0-0 2, Anderson 1-5 2-2 4, Dooling 0-3 0-0 0, Wang 0-1 0-0 0, Butler 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 32-81 24-31 91.

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Cavaliers 100, Bulls 91

Cavaliers 100, Bulls 91

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3-47, Curry 4-12-48 32, Duhron 2-2-2, Ajin
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Wizards 93. Grizzlies 83

Wizards 93, Grizziles 83
MixMWIS — Baller 415 44 14, Cardinal
3-9 6-18 ki, Wright 1-9 0-96, Miller 6-13 5-16, Millers 6-11 9-16, Millers 6-13 1-16, Millers 7-13, Millers 7-13, Millers 7-13, Millers 6-13, Millers 7-13, Miller

Bucks 100. Nets 81

NEW JERSEY — Carter 11-27 3-4 26, Collins 2-5 2-2 6, Ja.Smith 3-8 0-0 6, Kidd 3-10 5-6 11 Vaughn 2-9 0-0 4, Mercer 3-12 1-2 7, Robinson 4-92-2 10, Thomas 2-3 0-0 5, Campbell 0-0 0-0 0, Best 2-5 0-0 4, Planinic 1-1 0-0 2. Totals

0, Best 2-5 0-0 4, Planinic 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 33-89 13-168 1. MILWAUKEE - Mason 6-13 3-8 15, Jo.Smith 5-7 0-0 10, Gadzuric 0-3 1-2 1, Redd 5-13 1-1 11, M.Williams 6-8 0-0 13, James 5-10 1-1 11, Van Horn 2-5 4-7, Kukoc 3-3 1-2 8, Pachulla 6-10 2-4 14, Strickland 1-1 1-1 3, Hamilton 1-1 3-45, Fizer 1-10-0-2. Totals 4-75 16-27 100 New Jersey 25 29 14 23-100 Milwaukee Crale-New McSew 2-10 JTMs

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Three-Point Goals—New Jersey 2-10 (Tho

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Out—None, Rebounds—New Jersey 46 (Col

Jins 11), Milwaukee 2-8 (Pachulia 12), As

sists—New Jersey 10 (Kidd 7-1), Milwaukee 2-8

(James 7-1 Total Tous—New Jersey 2-0, Milwaukee

sive Three Second, New Jersey coach Frain sive Three Second, New Jersey coach Frank Mercer, M.Williams, A – 14,216, (18,717).

SuperSonics 103, Hornets 85

Mavericks 101, Jazz 83 DALLAS — Howard 7-13 3-9 18, A.Hen on 0-0 0-0 0, Nowitzki 7-21 15-16 29, Terry

son 0-0 0-0 0, Nowitzki 7-21 I5-16 29, Terry 4-6 0-0 9, Finley 10-18 1-1 24, DevHarris 4-5-2 12, Booth 0-1 0-0 0, Daniels 2-7-2-7, Bradley 0-0-0 0, Mberga 0-0-0 0, Armstrong 0-1-2 2. Totals 34-72 25-32 101. UTAH — Kirlenko 3-12-6-6-12, Harpring 1-6 7-8 9, Collins 0-1 0-0 0, McLeod 2-9 1-15, Bell 5-16-6-8 16, Okuro 5-6-6 B, Borchardt 4-6-11-9, Elsiey 2-10-8-8 12, Girck 3-6-0 7, Snyder 2-4 1-15, Humphries 1-10-0-2. Totals 23-75-36-9

Dallas 30 21 42 25–101
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Utah 20 21 42 25–101
Utah 20 21 30 30 31 31 4–33
Three-Point Goals—Dallas 3-1, Trilley 3-6,
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Dev Harry 2-3, Daniels 1-1, Howard 1-2, Terrilley 3-6,
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Solandia Howard Touls—Finley, Collins.
A—1, S.2.1. (1931)

Nuggets 107, Celtics 86

BOSTON — Pierce 5-13 5-8 16, LaFrentz 2-7 -05, Blount 2-5 0-0 4, Payton 4-11 1-2 9, Allen -10 4-6 12, Jefferson 3-5 3-4 9, Perkins 0-2 2-2 , West 6-10 4-6 17, Davis 4-13 4-5 12, Gugliot-2, West 6-10 4-6 17, Davis 4-13 4-5 12, Gugliot-to 0-20-0, Banks 0-10-00, Welsch 0-1 0-00. Totals 30-80 23-33 86. DENVER - Martin 8-17 2-4 18, Anthony 3-14 12-14 19, Camby 3-7 0-0 6, D.Johnson 5-9 2-2 14, Miller 7-14 8-9 22, Elson 4-6 0-4 8, Boykins 2-7 3-38, Russell 1-40-0 3, Writte 3-7 0-8, Ts-kitshvill 0-3 12, 1, Pope 0-0-00. Totals 36-88

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Denver
Three-Point Goals—Boston 3-16 (Pierce
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1-5. Berrenz - West 1-4. Allein (N), Davis
1-5. Berrenz - West 1-4. Allein (N), Davis
1-6. Berrenz - West 1-4. Allein (N), West 1-4. Berrenz - West

Spurs 99. Rockets 81

HOUSTON — Howard 7-13 2-2 16, McGrady 7-21 6-6 22, Yao 9-13 2-5 20, Wesley 5-10 1-2 13, Strickland 2-3 0-0 4, Mutombo 0-3 5-6 5, Barrett 0-2 0-0 0, JBarry 0-4 1-1 1, Weather-spoon 0-2 0-0 0, RBowen 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-71 17-72 8

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Lakers 86, Trail Blazers 83

Lakers 86, Trail Blazers 83
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Suns 118, Clippers 101

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Warriors 101. Hawks 96

Leaders Through Feb. 22 Scoring



Trade: 76ers' Iverson gets help

TRADE, FROM BACK PAGE

"The message that we're sending is that we went out and got a player who's averaging 21 and 10 to go along with our young players," King said. "I think the way we play, it allows some of our vounger guys to develop even more because you've got a big guy now that can really make passes and shoot the jump shot."

The 76ers host the Kings on Saturday, and Philadelphia will play in Sacramento on March 28.

The Sixers are 26-27 and a half-game behind Boston for first place in the Atlantic Division. while the Kings have the NBA's seventh-best record at 34-20 heading out on a six-game road trip, their longest of the season.

Iverson, the NBA's leading scorer, claimed he didn't ask to be traded if the Sixers didn't make any bold moves to contend in a weakened Eastern Conference this year - but the All-Star Game believed the Sixers needed help to make a playoff push.

"If there's anything we need it's definitely a big man," he said Monday. "A big man would help us a lot, especially a big man that can rebound and block shots."

Webber the No. 1 overall nick in 1993 following a stellar career at Michigan, has played excentionally well for the Kings in reweeks, averaging 21.3 points, 9.7 rebounds and 5.5 assists ner game - though he isn't the athlete he was before knee

Williamson, a first-round draft pick by the Kings in 1995, played five years in Sacramento before being traded to Toronto for Doug Christie following the 1999-00 sea son. The NBA's top sixth man in 2001-02 with the Pistons. Williamson is averaging 10.8 points and 3.7 rebounds this season.

Thomas, an undersized power forward with a reliable jumper, fell out of favor with coach Jim O'Brien this season, while Skinner was a free-agent bust.

Barnes, a Sacramento native, has been a seldom-used reserve for the Kings this season, though he took Stojakovic's spot in the starting lineup recently. Bradley was acquired earlier in the season in Sacramento's deal for Moblev. but hasn't played much.

In other deals made Thursday before the NBA trade deadline:

■ The New York Knicks agreed to two deals to acquire Malik Rose and two No. 1 picks from San Antonio and forward Maurice Taylor from Houston.

The Taylor trade received league approval about three hours after the 3 p.m. EST deadline, but the Rose deal was not immediately finalized.

The Knicks would send starting center Nazr Mohammed and backup point guard Jamison Brewer to the Spurs for Rose and



The 76ers on Thursday traded forward Glenn Robinson to the New Orleans Hornets

the two picks - a first-round choice in 2005 that originally belonged to Phoenix, and San Antonio's No. 1 pick in 2006.

In the Taylor trade. Houston acquired backup center Vin Baker. point guard Moochie Norris and the Knicks' second-round pick in

■ Antoine Walker is coming back to Boston after the Celtics agreed to trade Gary Payton, Tom Gugliotta and Michael Stewart to Atlanta.

The Hawks will also get a future first-round draft spokesman Arthur Triche said Thursday. The trade was pending league approval.

Walker spent seven years with the Celtics from 1996-2003, helping them reach the Eastern Conference finals in 2001-02. But basketball boss Danny Ainge decided after taking over the team during the 2003 postseason that it would be better off without its strongest all-around player and its strongest personality.

The Celtics traded guard Jiri Welsch to the Cleveland Cava-liers for a 2007 first-round draft

The 25-year-old Welsch has made 32 of 99 three-pointers this and is averaging 7.5 points, 2.5 rebounds and 20.5 minutes per game.

■ The Golden State Warriors acquired guard Baron Davis from the New Orleans Hornets for guard Speedy Claxton and forward Dale Davis

Baron Davis, a two-time All-Star who finished sixth in the NBA in scoring last season, will form a potent backcourt combination with Jason Richardson in Golden State. He has missed 36 games this season while struggling with several minor injuries, but still is considered one of the league's top point guards.

■ The ever-tinkering Dallas Mavericks made a surprising move to bolster their rotation, get ting Keith Van Horn from the Milwaukee Bucks for Alan Henderson. Calvin Booth and cash

When healthy, Van Horn would provide Dallas with another scorer, especially when star Dirk

Problem is, Van Horn isn't always healthy. He's been hobbled often in his 10-year career, the latest problem being tendinitis in his right ankle that has kept him out of 19 games this season.

Spurs finally solve Rockets

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO - Tracv McGrady could only watch this time while Tony Parker led the San Antonio Spurs to victory.

Parker made three inside has kets, including a rare dunk off his own steal, during a decisive 14-3 run in the fourth quarter of a 99-81 win over the Houston Rockets on Wednes-

NBA roundup day night. Parker went 6-for-7 in the second finished and

with 22 points, but Spurs coach Gregg Popovich only wanted to talk about his de-

"On defense he sealed the game for us," Popovich said. "Nobody notices it, they just notice what people do offensively, but on defense, he was very, very

Parker had a season-high five

steals.
In the first Spurs-Rockets matchup in early December, McGrady stunned San Antonio by scoring 13 points in the final 35 seconds to lead Houston to a

In the second Rockets triumph, McGrady hit a three-pointer with 35 seconds remaining to end the Spurs' comeback hopes

But on Wednesday, the last of his team-high 22 points came on a layup with five minutes left to ng the Rockets within three at 79-76. He took only one more shot, missing a three-pointer with San Antonio leading by 15.

The victory was the Spurs' first in three tries against Houston this season, and their 16th straight win at home. San Antonio is 24-1 at the SBC Center.

Tim Duncan scored 30 points, including his third three-pointer of the season, and had 11 re bounds for the Spurs. Manu Gino bili added 18 points.

Yao Ming had 20 points and Juwan Howard 16 for the Rockets, who dropped their second in a row after winning eight straight before the All-Star break.

Cavaliers 100, Bulls 91: At Cleveland, Zydrunas Ilgauskas and LeBron James scored 41 of Cleveland's 57 points in the second half. Ilgauskas scored 33 points 26 after halftime - and added

eight rebounds and seven blocks, matching a career high. James finished with 27 points, 11 assists, six rehounds and five steals as the Cavaliers improved to 21-5 at home.

Wizards 93, Grizzlies 83: At Washington, Gilbert Arenas scored 30 points and Antawn Jamison added 27 to lead the Wizards Arenas had 10 rehounds and

six assists as the Wizards ended a three-game losing streak and won their fifth in a row at home.

Bucks 100. Nets 81: Desmond Mason scored 15 points, and ZaZa Pachulia tied his career high with 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead host Milwau-

Michael Redd who missed the last three games before the All-Star break because of sprained index finger, scored 11



San Antonio guard Tony Parker (9) drives against Houston Rockets defender Juwan Howard during the fourth quarter in San Antonio on Wednesday. Parker scored 22 points in the Spurs' 99-81 victory.

points as Milwaukee won for fifth time in seven games.

Vince Carter had 26 points and Jason Kidd added 11 points and seven assists for the Nets, who haven't beaten the Bucks at the Bradley Center in the regular season since a 108-80 victory on March 10, 2000.

SuperSonics 103, Hornets 85: Rashard Lewis made six three-pointers and scored 26 points as visiting Seattle beat New Orleans for the fourth straight time.

Lewis made eight of 11 shots from the field and six of eight three-pointers — one more than the Hornets, capping the performance with a perfect night at the free throw line where he was 4-for-4.

Ray Allen scored 25 points for Seattle, including 5-for-11 from three-point range. Luke Ridnour had 14 points, Antonio Daniels 11, and Ronald Murray added 13. Reggie Evans grabbed 14 re-

Nuggets 107, Celtics 86: At Denver, the Nuggets made it seem like old times, running to a victory over Boston to give Doug Moe a win in his first game back on the bench as George Karl's new assistant

Andre Miller scored 22 points, Carmelo Anthony had 19 and Kenyon Martin had 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets.

Seeking some help on the bench, Karl persuaded Moe, his old North Carolina buddy and the winningest coach in Nuggets his tory, to sit by him for the final 29 games of the season. Moe agreed and the Nuggets played a lot like they did when he was coaching

them to 432 victories from 1980-90

Suns 118, Clippers 101: Leandro Barbosa, playing in place of the injured Steve Nash, scored a season-high 22 points, helping the Suns hand the Los Angeles Clippers their eighth consecutive loss all on the road.

The victory over the depleted Clippers gave the Suns a 42-13 record and assured them of a winning season with 27 games remaining.

The loss ended a disastrous nine-game road trip - the longest in the NBA this season — for the Clippers, whose only victory during the journey came in their opening game against Memphis.

Mavericks 101, Jazz 83: Dirk Nowitzki scored 16 of his 29 points in the second half and visiting Dallas rallied after blowing a

Josh Howard added 18 points and nine rebounds and Michael Finley scored 24 for the Mavericks, who won their fifth straight.

Lakers 86. Trail Blazers 83: At Portland, Ore., Kobe Bryant had 31 points and Los Angeles held off a second-half Portland

Shareef Abdur-Rahim missed a three-point attempt at the final buzzer, giving the Lakers their third straight win.

Warriors 101, Hawks 96: Jason Richardson scored points, Derek Fisher added 20 and the Golden State sent Atlanta to its 17th straight road loss.

Troy Murphy had a son-high 20 rebounds for the War-riors after missing their final 10 games before the All-Star break with a broken left thumb.

SPORTS



Racing Stripes: Still lacking victories in big events, Stewart plans for life after racing, Page 34

Kings move forward

Sacramento ships Webber to 76ers, gets little in return

The Associated Pres

Chris Webber finally left Sacramento — and for a whole lot less than a King's ransom.

The Kings will find out whether they're really a better team without their cornerstone, and the Philadelphia 76ers will learn whether another superstar can thrive alongside Allen Iverson.

The Kings dealt Webber to the Sixers late Wednesday night in a six-player deal that dramatically reshaped both clubs on the eve of the trade deadline.

Philadelphia got Webber, one of the NBA's elite power forwards and a five-time All-Star, along with reserve forwards Matt Barnes and Michael Bradley. The Sixers gave up relatively little in return, sending veteran forwards Corliss Williamson, Kenny Thomas and Brian Skinner to the Kings.

On Thursday, the 76ers completed their second trade in two days, sending forward Glenn Robinson to the New Orleans Hornets for Jamal Mashburn and Rodney Rogers.

Robinson and Mashburn have yet to play for their teams this year. Mashburn has a knee injury and might never play again.

Robinson, earning more than \$12 million in the final year of his contract, is on the injured list with left ankle tendinitis, though he's been unhappy since losing his starting forward spot in training camp.

"We knew what we wanted to do if we were going to move him," Sixers President Billy King said. "If this deal with Rodney didn't come about, we were not going to do a deal just to be moving Glenn."

Rogers can become a free agent at the end of the year. His three-point shooting fits nicely with coach Jim O'Brien's offensive philosophy, but Rogers is only averaging 9.3 points and shooting just 27.5 percent from three-point range.

Webber's departure from Sacramento has been discussed nearly since the moment Geoff Petric acquired him from Washington before the 1999 season. The Kings' president of basketball operations rebuilt the small-marker Kings around Webber, transforming the franchise from a perennial loser to a club with six straight winning seasons and two division titles.



The Sacramento Kings traded forward Chris Webber (4) to the Philadelphia 76ers in a six-player deal on Wednesday. Philadelphia was seeking help for its star Allen Iverson before the NBA trade deadline.

"He has been an instrumental part of ushering in an era of basketball here in Sacramento that most of the world at that time did not believe could happen," Petrie said late Wednesday night.

"I don't think myself or anyone in this organization could thank him enough."

Petrie was typically vague about his reasons for the deal, citing only "flexibility and versatility," but Webber is due to make \$62 million over the next three seasons — and Petrie clearly is among the NBA observers who believe Sacramento's up-tempo passing offense will be even better without Webber in the middle.

Peja Stojakovic, Brad Miller and Mike Bibby all thrived last season while Webber recovered from knee surgery — but all three stars regressed when Webber raturned. Though both Webber and Stojakovic denied rumors of a rift between them, Stojakovic demanded a trade from the Kings And though Webber had the best years of his career in Sacramento, the forward with the megawatt smile and larger-than-life personality always longed for a bigger stage — even after the Kings re-signed him to a seven-year deal worth approximately \$127 million in 2001.

In Philadelphia, Webber will get the national attention he always craved — and Iverson will get some of the help he has always wanted.

SEE TRADE ON PAGE 39



Vikings receiver Moss reportedly headed to Raiders

Page 35



Villanova topples fourth top 25 team of season with win over Boston College

Page 37



Kubasaki boys prevent three-peat by Seoul American in Class AA boys tournament

Page 36

